

[著] 丈月城
Illustr. BUNBUN

Campioness of Sanctuary

神域のキャンピオーネス

ラグナロクの狼

volume

2

J O E T A K E D U K I & B U N B U N

Shiniki no Campiones (神域のキャンピオーネス)

Campioness of Sanctuary.

Author – Takedzuki Jou (丈月城)

Artist – BUNBUN

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ダッシュエックス文庫



Story Synopsis:

『The world is filled with gods』

The alternate space Sanctuary that was connected to the world of mythology and brought disaster throughout the world.

Various monsters appeared in Kobe City at Japan that was connected to the world Sanctuary Troia that was told in Greek mythology, causing enormous damage.

In order to settle the situation, the beautiful girl who introduced herself as the greatest onmyouji in Japan and a reincarnation of god, Toba Riona was dispatched.

But, her goshujin-samamaster Rokuhara Ren was an “amateur” who couldn’t use any power despite being a member of the association 《Campiones》 that had the most influence in the world of magic.

Riona was exasperated at Ren who only relied in his running away and smooth talking. However, Ren had a trump card that enabled him to [summon god].....!

「Change the mythology’s synopsis without fail. If it’s necessary—then kill even the god.」

The king of gods Zeus, the goddess Athena, the hero Achilles.....in the world that was packed with gods and heroes, Ren and Riona challenged a mission that was impossible for most human.

The challenge toward the sanctuary where even 《godslaying》 would be carried out without hesitation started now!

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JOE TAKEDUKI & BUNBUN

[著]

丈月城

Illust.
BUNBUN





「まったく。

わたしにこんなことを

させて、とんでもない

ご主人さまです」

鳥羽梨奈らしくもない。

甘いさやきを唇から吐き出す。

眠っているのならようとい。

このまま強引に……六波羅連にのしかかり、

首筋に唇を寄せ、

吸いつこうとしたとき。



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Tour Guide of Sanctuary “Midgard”

Norse Mythology

It was the myth that ancient Europe's Germanic peoples passed on.

But, the materials that remained to this day were compiled based on the folklore that was left behind among the Vikings of Middle Ages (ninth century until thirteenth century) Northern Europe.

Because of that, it could also be said that more accurately it was the mythology of Viking tribe.

At that time, Europe was a world of Christianity. It was considered that it also gave some influence to the handing down of Norse Mythology.

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Midgard

The area where human race lived in Norse Mythology.

It was located in the inland area of a vast continent and it was surrounded by fence that acted as border. Passing through this fence, at the north and east was a wasteland where giants, wolves, and monsters were living. The place was called as Jotunheim.

Midgard was an abundant world with clear water and also produced plentiful of harvest.

On the other hand, Jotunheim was depicted as a desolate world that was extremely dangerous.

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Gods and Giants

The gods of Norse Mythology were split between the Aesir clan and the Vanir clan.

The two divine clans once opposed each other and even went into war, but they were then joined in peace when the Vanir clan made concession. The king of the Aesir clan that was the victor was the chief god Odin. However, in Norse mythology there was also race other than the gods that possessed power of the divine mystery. The elves that were called as Alf, the dwarves who excelled in blacksmithing and craftsmanship the Dvergr, and then the ^{Jotun}《giants》.

The giants were divided into several races. Their position ranged from being neutral to antagonistic toward the gods.

There were also many giants who were married to the gods of Aesir and Vanir and bore children.

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Fenrir

One of the monsters that were given birth by the female giant Angrboda.

Her eldest son was the demonic wolf Fenrir, her second son was the world snake Jormundgand, her third child, a daughter was the goddess of the country of the dead, Hel.

Many 『wolf』 monsters appeared in Norse mythology. The strongest among them was the one who was considered as the killer of the chief god Odin. Fenrir's sons, the wolf Skoll chased after the sun while Hati chase after the moon in order to swallow them. When the world's end arrived, it was said that Fenrir and his children finally fulfilled their dearest wish and consigned the sun and moon to oblivion.....

Seeing that Fenrir was a son of a female giant, there was also a viewpoint that saw him as 『a giant in the shape of wolf』 .

Prologue

Human that killed god would be reborn into a godslaying beast.

Human who accomplished this miracle didn't appear that frequently.

It was to the degree that if one appeared within several hundred years or within a thousand years it could be considered as "better". But since the dawn of history, it also never happened that there was none at all.

No matter how much human got poisoned by civilization, human was also a beast after all.

Owner of wildness that would persist with their own selfishness even if they had to kill a god for it would rarely be born. Pushed forward by good luck and miracle, they accomplished the great feat.

As the prize for that, they plundered the power, the authority of the god they murdered.....

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It was unknown what year of Christian Era that an emaciated street urchin accomplished it.

He was born in a peninsula that would be called as 『The Powder Keg of Europe』 later on.

It was an era of wars. European countries starting from Austria and Ottoman Empire were in a heated combat for the hegemony of the peninsula.

A wandering boy without any home or relative who was scornfully called as 『dog』 and the like——

One day, he murdered a god.

By obtaining god's authority, the street urchin obtained the qualification as a demon king.

And then, he aggressively used his strength. For example, when he traveled Hungary, he attacked a castle in the territory of a certain marquis and approached the feudal lord.

「Hand over your peerage and territory to me.」

It was the first fortune he obtained since he was born. This result satisfied him very much.

Because it was something that he obtained not from something foolish like heritage, but something that he took away with his own strength and ambition. Also, the previous marquis kept a burly savage dog.

「That dog, it might be my relative. In the past I was also called a dog you see.」

The godslayer who was a street urchin in the past ordered the previous marquis. He had to properly attend to the current marquis's relative—in other words the savage dog as a servant.

In the end, he got bored of the marquis's position after several years and threw it away.

After that was a succession of battles. At first he sought a confrontation with a powerful country. He 『picked a fight』 with the army of Ottoman Empire that ruled Eastern Europe at the time.

But after he grew up, he strongly wished for confrontation with the gods and his fellow brethren the godslayers.

「I only wish to fight with worthy enemy—. Simply enjoying such meager luxury won't bring down divine punishment on me.」

He smiled brazenly, and then he added this.

「If there is god who will come to give me his divine punishment, then I will simply meet him happily as enemy.」

A most atrocious demon king who was extremely arrogant.

He didn't come out at the front stage of Europe's history, however behind the scene of history, he received the fear and worship in the world of the magicians as well as the clergymen with free rein.

But, however.

The curtain was suddenly lowered on the days of battle at a certain day.

He suffered an embarrassing defeat in a duel against his brethren and lost his life. Although, he who had killed many gods until now as a godslayer—was especially powerful even among the beasts that were the bitter enemy of the gods.

He lost his flesh body and became only soul.

In that state, he was waiting vigilantly like a hawk for the opportunity, so that someday the day of his revival would arrive.

After many months and years since then, “that time” finally came.

Chapter 1 – Holiday at Valencia

1

A city that ranked next to even the capital Madrid and Barcelona in Spain.

That was Valencia. It was the provincial capital of Valencia Province that was facing Mediterranean Sea. It was a harbor that was prominent even in Europe.

It was a city of sea with the Southern Europe's sun shining radiantly.

And then right now it was early afternoon in Valencia with clear autumnal weather.

「For Japanese person like me, the first thing that I thought was 『The home of Valencia's orange!』 though.」

Toba Rioan who came from Nara prefecture in Kansai region muttered so.

「It's the first time I learned that the rice's production output here is number one in Spain.」

Riona was in a restaurant at Valencia right now.

In addition it was a restaurant that provided local cuisine and hometown ingredient. A lot of plates were placed in front of her. Two men were sitting on the other side of the table.

One of the men, Julio Blandelli said.

「After all there are also people who said that Paella isn't Spain dish, it's Valencia dish.」

「There will be outrageously big paddy field if you go to the outskirts you know?」

This was Rokuhara Ren's comment. They were in the middle of lunch right now.

The menu was the authentic Valencia-style Paella that “didn't use seafood and use stock from meat”, a massive steak of black Iberian pig, cold tomato soup, salad dressed with tuna ham and pickled sardine, roasted pumpkin, etc.

A whole day after Toba Riona and Rokuhara Ren returned from “other world”——.

Sanctuary Troia.

They went to the world of Trojan War which was a big event that was prominent even in Greek mythology, and they changed the conclusion of 『Greece army won and Troia city was destroyed』 that world should receive.

One could come and go from this earth surface and the mythological world through a singularity point called space distortion.

When the two of them returned back, the connecting point they used was linked to Sicily Island of Mediterranean Sea.

The distance between the southern island of Italia until the Valencia at eastern Spain was around 1200 km. There Julio made a suggestion.





『You can take a vacation here before returning to Japan. We will take responsibility to entertain you during that time no matter how long it takes, whether it's several days or several weeks.』

Thus, Riona stopped by at Valencia.

Also, Ren and Riona traveled throughout countries with 『supernatural route』 that didn't pass through the customs, but Julio took care of all the troublesome procedures that usually accompanied such thing.

Or more accurately it wasn't him, but the magic association Campiones where he was serving as the leader that did it—.

He came from a preeminent noble family in Europe that used this Valencia as a base, and the founder of his family was a 『demon king』 that was feared as someone who killed even god.

And then right now, a new demon king was reigning over the association Campiones.

「Is there any place Riona want to go to?」

The new demon king, Rokuhara Ren cheerfully asked.

「Julio is really busy but, I'm fundamentally someone with a lot of free time, so I can accompany you as much as you like. If you like I can also call at my friend in Valencia and ask them to take you sightseeing.」

「Free time—Rokuhara-san, didn't you say before?」

Riona recalled her encounter with this carefree youth.

If she remembered correctly, his profile when he talked about himself at that time was—

「Something like you being an overseas student at Spain. Don't you need to go to class or something?」

「Hahahaha」

「I'll explain. In the first place Ren came here using tourist visa you see. When he was accepted into the association Campiones, I made some arrangement to renew his visa into student visa. It's to make it easier for him to stay here for a long period. But, Rokuhara Ren who is also a godslayer can learn language extremely quickly—」

Julio was talking indifferently beside the person in question who was laughing.

「The truth is he was enrolled in a language school in order to learn Spain language.....there is really no need for him to enroll there. And so this guy is wandering aimlessly all over the place in his free time.」

「Well, we also don't know when Campiones' job will come.」

Ren smiled cheerfully and gave a thumb up.

「So I guess it's like I'm in standby just in case a work came?」

「It's an astonishing story that the demon king-sama's activity is like 『an unpopular celebrity who will sometimes receive job offer』」

Riona nodded half in exasperation and half in admiration.

By the way considering that she was in the middle of vacation, she finally took off the uniform blazer that she was wearing all the time in Japan until Troia. Now she was wearing a knitted dress. She combined it with checkered scarf, black leggings, and a knitted hat with brim attached.

Ren was wearing a long sleeved T-shirt and a jacket.

Julio was dressed in a white shirt, black jacket, and slacks.

By the way, Achilles's shield that they obtained in Troia——was gone. It seemed it was impossible to bring an item with strong divinity back to earth.

In any case Riona asked her “goshujin-sama”.

「Then, Rokuhara-san came to Europe for sightseeing?」

「There is also that but, that's not all. At that time, a friend in Tokyo who worked as cook said that he wanted to study cooking in Spain but felt uneasy living abroad, so I said 『Then I'll live together with you for a while there』 ——」

「You were sticking with him!?!」

「Yep. But my friend became homesick after four or five days and returned back. I thought 『I already came here so...』 and left behind here by myself. Then I met Stella.」

「So whether it's now or in the past you always live by leaving everything to chance like this.....」

It was the inside story of going to Europe that was just too light. However, it was actually really “like” Rokuhara Ren to do that.

Riona changed the topic after understanding that.

「In that case it looks like I don't need to be reserved. Of course I can also sightsee by myself but, it's this occasion. I'll have you accompany me for a bit.」

「Sure thing. Where are you going?」

「I want to cover orange related sightseeing following the basic of having vacation in Valencia. Let's also go to eat churros and ice cream after this. And then we will cool down at the central market, look around the historic landmark of the Middle Ages, the art museum, the museum, the aquarium.....ah, that's right. I also want to go to a bullring, and flamenco show is also indispensable. Also the sea. I'm already here so I want to go out to Mediterranean sea and have my fill of marine leisure with a bang. And then perhaps going all the way until Gibraltar Strait to see Hercules's pillar.....」

「I don't mind at all to arrange for all of that just so you know.」

Julio cut in.

「Is that alright? If you intend to have a full course vacation like that, then I think you should stay here for around a month you know?」

「That's just what I want. Let's absolutely go with that.」

「Roger. But I'll say this first, Japan's Institute of Divinities—your superior has requested us to 『make Toba Riona return back here

quickly』 .」

「Of course they will..... That kind of instruction also came to my phone after all.」

Riona rested her chin on her hand with a fed up look. She stared outside the window.

It was a townscape that was overflowing with the atmosphere of Southern Europe, which was completely different from the “familiar” urban area like Kyoto or Kobe, or her birthplace the mountainous region of Nara.

There were a lot of building made from stone that were built at the Middle Ages era.

And yet the number of creative modern construction and building also wasn't few. They were naturally melting together inside the traditional city. The race of people coming and going was also carried.

It also possessed a harbor, making it an amazingly open city—such thing was reflected on Riona's eyes.

That was why, she unconsciously grumbled.

「Perhaps because I enjoyed a long freedom at Sanctuary Troia..... honestly, returning back to Japan feels bothersome. Over there is all sorts of annoying.」

「Hou」

Julio's eyes sparkled with deep interest.

.

Toba Riona was the most prominent onmyouji in Japan. She was a reincarnation of a god.

She was the incarnation of the sacred bird Yatagarasu. The one that once guided Emperor Jinmu. She was closer to a god rather than human, an

existence that could be called as demigod already—.

However at the same time, she also possessed the limit as human.

「After all, I can't release all my potential by myself in the end.」

Riona shrugged.

In Kobe she made the prefectural governor as her “goshujin-sama”, while in Troia it was Rokuhara Ren who took the role.

Without their permission 『Carry out my command with great haste』 , Toba Riona was unable to display the real ability of Yatagarasu.

「It's necessary for me to get involved with other people, on top of that I also cannot really do as I please. Besides.....my fellow coworker whose ability cannot match me and the old people in possession of the vested interests used 『the logic of political power – majority vote – organization』 as shield and attempt to limit my activity. Look」

Riona spoke toward Ren who was also Japanese like her.

「You know aren't you? A case when a trainer of professional sumo wrestling got his pupil beaten up by a yokozuna and when he criticized it, the board of directors and the yokozuna council lashed back saying 『Why aren't you covering this up!』 to the victim instead. The detail is different but, I once experienced something similar like that.」

「Riona also has it hard huh.」

Rokuhara Ren spoke earnestly. Riona didn't deny that.

「There are a lot of people in the Institute of Divinities that are casebook example of problem maker elderly, so it's really troublesome there. My direct superior is an upright person so it helps though.」

「Then Riona. I have a suggestion for you.」

Julio suddenly spoke. Riona went 「？」 and tilted her head.

Valencia Cathedral—.

This conversation happened in a Catholic consecrated ground that was built in the center of the city.

After the lunch at a restaurant, they came here as the first part of the vacation. Rokuhara Ren and Julio Blandelli were walking at Riona's sides.

As expected, it was this place that should be called as Valencia's symbol.

A cathedral that was built at the 13th century. Amazingly after that, reconstruction and addition to its building were repeatedly done until the 18th century. That was why it was fundamentally a gothic architecture, but various techniques like baroque or Romanesque could be seen everywhere in it.

Riona asked while observing the building among the other tourists.

「What is this suggestion of yours Julio?」

「You can transfer to our Campiones association without telling them. Our association's principle is to be a gathering of elite few. Our upper echelons consisted of only people with rational thinking. And the commander-in-chief who bring them together, well, I can proudly say that he is surely not a fool by all means.」

「So the commander-in-chief from a noted family is personally scouting me.....」

「From our position, you're an outstanding talent that we desperately "want". It's foolish to irritate someone like you with stupid human relations. And above all else, you're the best partner one can ask for the demon king Rokuhara Ren.」

Julio asserted powerfully.

「The association Campiones will promise you the best treatment and work that is worth doing.」

「That's nice Julio. That's a wonderful suggestion.」

The noble youth who was born in Southern Europe spoke that matter-of-factly. Beside him the godslaying demon king grinned broadly.

Riona sighed after receiving the unexpected invitation.

「Honestly, I'm tempted but, it's no good.」

「Why?」

「My true nature is Yatagarasu.....a divine spirit of ancient Japan. It's not really a problem if I'm just stretching my wings abroad like this, but an act of severing my regional bond and spiritual bond with the land of the gods Japan—I think that perhaps, it will bring a negative effect to my identity.」

「? What do you mean, Riona?」

「More specifically I expected that I'll become mentally unstable, my physical condition turn bad, and my spiritual strength decline.」

「I see. It's a worry exactly because you're a divine spirit with strong bond to the land of Japan.」

Ren's eyes turned round while Julio showed an understanding with his sharp mind.

However, the noble youth who inherited Latino blood suddenly muttered this.

「Now then. A way to keep Toba Riona affiliated to Japan while solving her chained up situation and what's more in a way that will bring benefit to Campiones association—does it exist or not.....」

「Oh. Julio, he is doing it again.」

「He suddenly stopped walking, what's the matter with that?」

「Should it call it as him thinking or scheming? Julio is really good at this kind of thing.」

Julio already didn't even pay any attention anymore to the two Japanese with him. He stared at empty air and submerged himself into his thought. Riona was surprised seeing that, while Ren was smiling carefreely.

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「Sorry, I've made you wait. This way.」

After deeply thinking for two minutes, Julio resumed being a guide calmly.

Riona and Ren followed him and entered inside the chapel of Valencia Cathedral.

Windows with stained glass. The statue of the crucified Jesus Christ. And then the 『chalice』 made from black agate that was stored in a showcase at the deepest area.

Riona opened her eyes wide.

「Is this the holy relic that has been passed down in Valencia.....」

「Yeah. Before Christ was crucified, this chalice was used in the last supper. Similar articles existed throughout the world, but it's only this chalice that is considered an article made in the first century Syria or Palestine from the result of scientific appraisal.」

Julio spoke until that point and made a cruel cold smile.

「Of course, just that doesn't guarantee that it's the “real thing”.」

「That's right Julio. Before, you showed me “the other chalice” at this place's basement right? How about you show it to Riona too?」

「Yeah. Certainly that might be good.」

The eldest son of Blandelli House grinned at Rokuhara Ren's words.

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After that they secretly passed through a hidden door and hidden passage (!)—

Riona was guided to the basement of Valencia Cathedral. Any kind of guide book wouldn't have any information that there was this kind of space right under the famous tourist attraction.

Most likely it was constructed and maintained under extreme secrecy behind the scene. Riona said a praise.

「A secret underground chapel, it's really outrageous.....」

「You're the first person other than people related to Campiones association to enter here.」

The guide Julio said.

Brick walls surrounded the four directions. It was a vast basement.

There was no floor underneath, but a surface of naked soil.

There was a mass of rock with faint pink color lying down. In Riona's eyes, it looked like a cow or a plump female sprawling down for some reason—.

「This is not just a rock isn't it?」

Extraordinary divine atmosphere and mystical force were leaking out from the faint pink mass of rock.

Julio spoke to Riona who sensed that.

「Correct. Most likely it's a god's.....corpse that died a violent death more than a thousand years ago. Just like how human died and turned into white bone, a god's corpse also changed shape into rock. Unlike mere human bones, this holy relic is containing a tremendous mystical force.」

「Certainly, it's just as you say.....」

The god's corpse was still a part of god even in death like this.

The mass of rock could also be said as an embodiment of miracle. Riona noticed that on the ground under it there was a complicated and mysterious magic square carved. Most likely it was an opus of Europe sorcery—.

「Our association extracted out that power and adjusted it so that it can be used for ritual magic.」

「You extracted mystical force from a god's corpse!?!」

Riona was shocked. Julio continued further.

「Yeah. In other words it's a pool of mystical force that boasted an immense scale. This is the trump card of Campiones association. We called it 《Holy Grail》 with feeling of reverence.Well, it's an equipment in order to use the secret ritual that is our trump card, so we also cannot really abuse its use.」

「I think this Holy Grail won't dry up no matter what kind of grand ritual it is used for.」

「That's not true. After all this thing is a mechanism that supposedly is for 『showdown against god』 after all.」

「!」

The European magician talked about sorcery, and the Japan's onmyouji comprehended it right away.

It was an inexplicable chance meeting between sage of the west and the east. But, even though his knowledge in this matter was nonexistent, the existence that was more extraordinary than anyone, Rokuhara Ren grinned broadly.

「Julio. From how you talk, have you found the answer perhaps?」

Ren made a know-it-all face just like an assistant of a famous detective.

「The thing that you were thinking before. The best method to solve Riona's trouble.」

「You're perceptive Ren. Yeah, if you and Riona can conduct yourself exactly like I planned, then her problem can be solved nicely.」

「Is that true? But, why is it not just me, and Rokuhara Ren is also involved in that——?」

「It's simple. I only thought that it will be fine if both of you carried out a “political marriage”.」

「Heh——?」

Riona was speechless at Julio's words.

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「In short, we only need to strengthen Toba Riona's position and influence.」

They returned to the surface, left the cathedral, and entered a nearby bar.

Café that doubled as bar could be found everywhere in Southern Europe. Julio suddenly started to talk about his plan at a terrace seat of such place.

「As expected the fastest way is to prepare a powerful backer. Ren came in there. His popularity world-wide is still not that great, but if you're together with this man then even Japan's Institute of Divinities will understand right away. That even if all the magician on earth joined forces, they still wouldn't be a match against Rokuhara Ren——」

「He is a human who usurped a god's authority after all.....」

Riona also admitted it with an exasperated tone.

「Well, if there is a chance to show Rokuhara-san's authority in Japan, then various dispute will occur there. But at the end I think everyone will say

『It's the sudden emergence of demon king who murdered even god!』 in recognition and prostrate themselves. But, is there any need for me to become his wife? It will be fine if he simply become my guardian or goshujin-sama.....」

「No, that won't be enough.」

Julio promptly denied it.

「If you're just his vassal, there will be an opening that can be taken advantage of. Those who want to control Toba Riona can just toady to the demon king who is above her and receive the king's favor. But, if you place yourself as the queen, then the room to do such thing will be nearly nonexistent.」

「.....」

「Of course, it's the norm of a royal court that mistress other than the queen can appear. However, even if that happen a queen will still be a queen. The authority will still be secured in her hand. Well, there will be a risk of assassination, but you are 『Toba Riona』 . It will be no trouble to protect yourself right?」

「And, for the compensation, I'll have to cooperate fully with all of you.....?」

「Yeah. For the sake of Campiones association and our demon king Rokuhara Ren. Don't you think that it's a perfect plan?」

「I have a big objection at the point that my marriage partner will be Rokuhara-san!」

Riona pointed at her “future husband candidate” and roared.

Beside Julio Blandelli, Rokuhara Ren was drinking sangria with a carefree face. Even though it was this kind of topic!

「Even though this guy look like this, Ren is a popular man among the ladies.」

Julio replied with a baffled look.

He was a Latino handsome man. He possessed both intellect and refined elegance. He even possessed manly sex appeal from the exotic atmosphere

that his black hair and black eyes brought out.

And then, even as a magician and also as an organization leader he was super excellent. However.

This noble youth, could it be that he was 『an eccentric that is real hopeless』 when it came to emotion.....?

「I can believe that there might be those who like someone like Rokuhara-san, but he isn't my type-. And then!」

Minced dry-cured ham, cut omelet, squid fritto, etc.

Riona turned her eyes to the “goshujin-sama” who was snacking on “^{tapas} small dish cuisine”.

「Please don't act like this is other people's matter when this topic also concerned you. Are you okay that an outrageous talk like political marriage is progressing on its own like this without your involvement?」

「It's a plan that Julio recommended, so I think that it's acceptable enough.」

「Isn't that right? Obviously you also don't wan—eh?」

Riona didn't believe her ear, thinking if she might have misheard it. But Rokuhara Ren lightly smiled.

「This is the most convenient way both for you and also for me. Then, even that kind of foul play is acceptable isn't it? It's what they call the end justifies the mean.」

Perhaps it should be said, as expected from the demon king who killed a god. Common sense simply didn't apply to him.

Young man Rokuhara calmly made an outrageous remark.

「Besides it's a “political marriage” right? In that case even if we only pretend as married couple at the surface while searching for our respective true partner at another place should be alright. Sham marriage or contract marriage that is only on paper frequently happen.」

「Thi, this isn't 『Nigehaji』, is something like this normal in reality!?!」
(TN: Ask google-sensei about Nigehaji if you're interested. Seems like it's a drama in Japan)

Riona spontaneously questioned.

It was a conduct that was unbecoming for a 『god's incarnation』 who possessed extensive knowledge and arrogance.

And then Rokuhara Ren smiled seeing Riona bewildered and losing her head. His expression was unusually befitting as an older senior and overflowing with broad-mindedness.

「Even my friends, the gay Tatsuaki-san and the lesbian Yumi-san married each other you know? After all that way is more convenient for both of them. Of course, there is no love between the two of them. To the end they're simply close friend and partner. But, if that way make it easier for them to live then isn't it fine?」

「I, is that fine.....?」

「Yep. As long as Riona agree with it, then I also don't have any problem at my end. Let's do our best overcoming the adversities of society and the danger of the world together!」

It was a cheer from the extremely flippant “goshujin-sama”.

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3

Toba Riona's stay in Valencia began.

The Campiones association prepared a room in a high class hotel for her.

And then, Rokuhara Ren was also a member of the association. As the “newcomer and demon king-sama”, he worked hard to escort Riona.

Of course, Ren also had his own private life.

He returned back to Valencia through Japan and Troia. He also made effort to clean up his lodging room that was left alone for several weeks, met up with the friends he made in Spain, and so on. And then.

「Rokuhara-san's room is unexpectedly cramped.」

Riona looked around inside the room and said that.

She came to Ren's place at the third day of her stay in Valencia.

It wasn't like there was any erotic reason why she came here. They had promise of having lunch together.

Speaking in Japanese term, this was a cramped one person room.

If compared to around Asagaya in Tokyo, this room would be the same like an old and compact apartment with rent of 60,000 yen. There was also a shared kitchen for several lodgers outside the room.

「At first Julio prepared a more splendid room for me though.」

「Of course he would..... Rokuhara-san is the demon king-sama who is worshipped by Campiones association after all.」

「But it was too spacious and I couldn't calm down. That was why I started to freeload in Julio's room. But the friends that I made here frequently came to play, so he got angry.」

「That person seems like someone sensitive isn't he?」

「Hahaha. Because of that I looked for a boarding house where I can party and drink without reservation and stayed here. There are also a lot of overseas students here, and there is also the landlord-san's family. I can speak with a lot of people so it's fun.」

Ren grinned at Riona who sat down on a chair for guest.

At the beginning Rokuhara Ren was 『penniless and powerless』. He only had the minimum necessary household goods. His room had extremely few things in the style of a minimalist.

「A room that doesn't even have television feels too extreme though.....」

「It's fine. Yan-san from China who lives next door has one. Yan-san loves American movie and anime you see. Sometimes we watch TV together while getting really heated up.」

「So Rokuhara-san is also practicing counting on other people's items at your everyday life too.」

Riona muttered seriously.

She must be remembering the authority Friendship Circle of Rokuhara Ren and Stella. Then suddenly the voice of a girl who was very young and yet lovely resounded in agreement.

「You've noticed a good thing, bird girl.」

Maris Stella
Unnoticed the “Star of the Sea” Aphrodite had appeared behind Ren.

Nickname Stella. She had a doll size with her 30 cm height.

While she looked childish, her proportion had proper undulation. Her body was wrapped in white goddess's garment. Her golden hair that was tied into twintail displayed her brilliance.

「It won't be so bad if it's a present of extravagant goods from divine being like me」

Stella complained vigorously.

「But when it come to Ren, he would pester to borrow something from commoner without even definite lineage. What a really unprincipled act!」

「But Stella. In the first place there isn't any god ^{over here} on earth you know?」

「In that case you should just endure it-. And yet when it comes to Ren, he will butter up strange girls so that they will show sympathy to him—look!」

Suddenly Stella vanished. In the next instant, she appeared on the table in a flash.

She was able to teleport if it was a short distance. And then, Stella pointed at the letter that was placed in front of her with an indignation that she couldn't clear away.

「This too is a letter from a woman that Ren buttered up. Hmph. It's pungently smell of vulgar passions which is really befitting of a commoner with lowly origin.」

「A letter addressed to Rokuhara-san.....?」

Riona stared at the letter that was placed on the table.

On the address column, it was written with 『To Ren-kun♡』 with rounded Japanese character.

「Was it sent here from Japan?」

「No. It came from Spain too. From Seville I think?」

Riona pondered after Ren said that. She was in the middle of checking the map in her head.

Seville was the provincial capital of Andalusia province. It seemed that it became well-known from an opera called 『Andalusia's Barber』 or something.

「It's Takako-san who I became friend with after coming to Spain. She is a Japanese woman who came here to study Flamenco. It seems that she came to this room while I was away. She waited for several hours, but I didn't come home so she only handed a letter to Yan-san——」

「He, hee. She was waiting for several hours in front of Rokuhara-san's room.....」

「Ah. Just so you know, we don't have any 『deep relation』 you know? Takako-san sometimes would give that kind of atmosphere but, well, should I say that right now I'm not really feeling like it.」

「!？」

Riona seemed to harbor an unjust suspicion to him, so Ren gave additional explanation.

The seventeen years old genius onmyouji who should be wiser than her age indicated went 『Gyoh!』 . And then Stella sighed on the table.

「Bird girl, it seems you too finally noticed Ren's troublesomeness.....」

.

Several dozen minutes later—they headed to a bar at the neighborhood and had lunch.

Ren spoke to the girl accompanying him there.

「But Riona. Receiving a woman's advance is unexpectedly full of trouble you know?」

The standard dish of Spain, potato filled omelet.

In addition there was roast pork, fried octopus, croquette filled with dried cod, etc.

Any of them filled the plates in heap. And of course they were all handmade. Ren talked while tasting that.

「Even the Takako-san I mentioned before. The true motive at the bottom of her heart is to quickly divert her loneliness from living in unfamiliar foreign country by using me who can speak Japanese with her. Of course, responding to her feeling so that we can console each other for a short period of time might be also alright, but」

「Rokuhara-san said that right now you aren't feeling like it.....」

Riona glared at him from the other side of the table with a fixed gaze.

「From that wording, it means that Rokuhara-san has quite a lot of experience receiving woman's advances aren't you?」

「Well of course, I did it as much as anyone else.」

「Yo, you recognize it so easily!?!」

「But you know, it became something serious when I did that with a married woman at my third year in high school. It was after that incident, I started thinking that from here on perhaps I should have self-restrain except when in serious relationship.」

「You were with a married woman in third year high school!?!」

Riona was writhing after she thought back falteringly at what she just heard.

She seemed to receive a considerable shock. She had attractive face and figure, great confidence, and also deep individuality and charm, even so she

was still inexperienced in the matter related to love affair.

Ren felt that such Riona was cute. He felt like smiling.

On the other hand, the Japanese girl in question raised her voice in agitation.

「How can I do political marriage with someone who wants to restrain himself in anything that isn't serious!?!」

「Isn't it the reverse? It's because it's not serious I can consider "that kind of relationship" as just a tool.」

「No, now that you mentioned it that's true.」

「Well, if Riona doesn't feel like doing it then I also won't force you to do it. Just think about it carefully without rushing. More importantly, this restaurant's dish is great right?」

「It's just as Rokuhara-san said, I think they're superb. But」

Riona glanced toward the kitchen.

There was the bar's owner there who was also Ren's acquaintance. She was busily cooking. Before this she got out from the kitchen and personally served the cooking on the plate.

「On top of that they're cheap. If you order drink here then the food's price will become like they're free.」

「It's a system that is kind to students. I think it's very nice. But Rokuhara-san. Compared to the other customers.....isn't it just this table where the "portion" is extremely big?」

Ren nodded at Riona's question.

「That's because I get along well with the auntie. It's a service from her.」

「That lady doesn't really look like 『auntie』 you know..... Despite her age her skin looks really smooth. She is in the level of Aunt May of rebooted Spiderman movie where 『She is unthinkably sexy for an aunt with a nephew at high school that it won't be out of place even if she go out with Robert Downey Jr.』 you know!」

「Aah. It might be just as Riona said.」

Ren grinned broadly and spoke smoothly.

「Her husband died when she was young. It might be the effect of being a widow all this time.」

「Where did you learn that kind of personal information!?!」

「I heard it from auntie herself. It was when we drank wine together inside the bar after it closed.」

「Is that strangely sincere communication skill the source of the many women's advances.....」

It happened when Riona was feeling greatly impressed.

Her smartphone was playing a melody of an incoming call inside her bag. Riona didn't ignore it and immediately answered. Seeing her reaction it didn't seem to be a call from Japan.

「Yes. Yes.I'm also together with Rokuhara-san.」

Riona finished the talk briefly and then turned a serious face.

「Do you remember what Julio said at the day we returned from Troia? That there might be other godslayer than Rokuhara-san in this earth—that talk.」

「Ah, that talk.」

A person clad in uncommon aura appeared in front of Julio Blandelli.

He was more a wolf or tiger than human. His atmosphere was really similar like a carnivore—.

It was hard to believe it so suddenly, however, seeing that the report came from Julio there was no other choice but to believe it. For Ren it was that kind of story.

And then right now Riona told him solemnly.

「The intelligence staff of Campiones association determined the location of “that person”.」

「Hee!」

Ren felt admiration. But he soon tilted his head.

「But, there isn't any other person who has killed god other than me until now right? Is killing god something that can happen twice so rapidly?」

「It seems you have forgotten. Julio's ancestor was also a godslayer.」

「Now that you mentioned it that's true.」

「There wasn't even one godslayer from the 20th century until 21st century—. But, even that can possibly “us people related to magic” simply not knowing about it, while a godslayer was actually acting behind the scene of history—」

Riona was pondering while muttering.

「If godslayer is equal with demon king, then there is also another more possible possibility.....」

「What's that?」

「Demon king is something that resurrect isn't it? Even in RPG a story like 『the demon king that should have been defeated by the hero resurrected after several hundred years and reform the demon king army』 often appear—」

「Aah! I also know that kind of scenario!」

「Since the era of Dark Schneider and Hudler, demon king reincarnating is the cliché development.」

The second godslayer=ancient great demon king.

Riona who proclaimed the new theory suddenly said.

「And, it seems that person is still in Spain. This too might be some kind of fate. How about the two of us.....going to see the man who might be a godslayer?」

.

4

There was a western mansion at the neighborhood in Valencia city that wasn't really bustling.

Within the mansion's ground there was the main building and three more separate buildings in addition. And then Julio Blandelli was inside a small chapel that was inconspicuously built at the garden.

A clock with diameter of three meter was placed on the pedestal before him—.

Even though it was still noon, the time the clock showed was late at night. Julio said.

「So, the time right now is 23:10.」

When this clock pointed at 00:00, a great calamity or the like would attack the world.

It was the catchphrase of the ritual tool of divine mystery Doomsday Clock. A few days ago, the clock showed the time was 22:55 right after Rokuhara Ren returned from Troia.

「The hand progressed drastically.....」

『The cause is undoubtedly “that man”.』

The dignified woman voice whispered into his ear.

It was the telepathy of the protector that safeguarded this clock and Blandelli family.

『O my king's descendant, be careful. While that person is a human, he turned his back on law and order. He is a monster that earnestly long for destruction and chaos. That's to say he is a demon king among demon king.』

「If possible, in order to avoid the coming destruction」

Julio muttered.

「I wish to ask that man to fight together with us too. If “one more godslayer” other than Ren join us, then the prospect of success for our reckless defiance will become slightly better.」

『Hahahahaha』

「What is funny?」

『Stop with the futile calculation. Godslayer is “the fools who killed even god to persist with their own will” you remember? Their unreasonableness shook the heaven and earth. If that kind of bunch meet up, then first it will become a dispute that question their strength!』

The dignified voice of the protector was filled with confidence.

『The meeting between a god and a godslayer will still be more peaceful.』

「That man looked like he can be talked with to some degree though?」

『It only looked like that. That man's true nature is a beast, furthermore it's a beast that hunger for blood and battle.』

「.....Understood. The words of the 《White Queen》 have the weigh of a thousand gold. I will follow the precepts of my Blandelli family and believe you.」

『That's a good child, o dear child.』

A “knight” was standing beside Julio when he noticed.

The knight was tall, on par with the successor of Blandelli House. A chainmail covered her upper body until her waist. She was also clad in gauntlet, greaves, white helmet, and a mantel that was also white. Of course there was a long sword hanging on her waist.

However because her body was spiritual, her whole body was transparent—.

A mask was also attached on her helmet. It was a type that completely covered her face.

But, from her voluptuous chest bulge, it was obvious that she was a female knight.

「I saw the “world’s end” at that time together with Ren. If it’s in order to avoid that, I will do everything that I can.」

『Umu. You can also use my spear and horse without any reservation.』

The white protector strongly replied to Julio’s monologue.

.

A blue light soared through the sky sparklingly and descended on the southeast area of Spain.

The light took off from within Valencia city. It then headed to the south in an arc, and then it landed on the coast of Murcia province that was facing Mediterranean Sea.

And, the light was carrying two travelers.

「As expected from Riona, it’s fast. It should take several hours if we go by car.」

「It’s not something that can be used too openly but, it can’t be helped because this is an emergency situation.」

Rokuhara Ren praised his partner, while Toba Riona bragged with an unconcerned face.

The two Japanese people used the magic of travelling, flight magic which they also used to great effect in Sanctuary Troia. With that they flew all the way to here.

Riona looked around and muttered.

「Even though we are near the sea, the place feel really dry.」

「The neighboring Andalusia also feel like this. It's hot and dry.」

Even though the sea itself still wasn't visible, the ground was covered with sand.

When the wind blew, the white sand would whirl up to the air densely. There was no tall tree, only short bush and thicket could be seen sparsely. Scraggy rocks stood out in this place.

Ren asked within that scenery.

「That person is near here right? How will we search for him?」

「There are many ways so please don't worry. But, there is also something bothering me.」

Riona spoke while looking at her smartphone.

「According to the data that Julio received—there is a space distortion nearby.」

「Hee. That thing to come and go to world of mythology huh!」

「To be more accurate, it's a former space distortion. It's a point that already vanished a long time ago. From the report of Campiones's investigator who infiltrated inside, it was connected to Sanctuary Midgard.」

「Which mythological world is that?」

「It's Norse mythology.」

Riona answered right away and then she frowned.

「The inside of Midgard is an extremely stable world. There isn't any great war happening, the twilight of the gods is also not close, it seems to be in a reasonably peaceful situation. It's also mentioned that the space distortion that appeared here started to shrink after around twenty years. But——」

「The person who seem to be my colleague came nearby here even with that.」

「Yes. Perhaps there is something in Sanctuary Midgard.」

And then more than ten minutes later.

Riona folded Japanese papers into the shape of a heron to create some shinigami. She sent more than thirty shikigami to the sky, and then following the report of one of them, Ren and Riona learned the direction they should go to.

Like that they arrived in a rocky area. The sea was right nearby.

Waves were surging one after another, hitting the rock cliff. The water splashed whitely.

The wind was also strong. The water spray mixed with the air, moistening the dry air. There—a conspicuous looking young man was standing. He looked like he was at the middle of his twenty.

He was wearing a dark grey business suit with a thin black coat above it.

「I command under the name of the god who imparted the forbidden wisdom.」

He was chanting something with a deep baritone voice.

He was a silver haired Caucasian. While his hair was trimmed shortly, the hair around the back of his head was bristling.

「O grimoire carved with abominable knowledge, come. Invoke the divine mystery just as I desire, in order to manifest a wonder.」

A huge 『book』 suddenly appeared right beside the young man.

The height of the book's spine amazingly was as high as a ten year old kid. Its thickness was also about the same as the shoulder width of a child. And then its binding was made from black leather. The book was floating in the air—.

However the young man haughtily declared in front of the supernatural book.

「I won't say it again so remember it carefully. What I sought from a tool is two things. An absolute obedience to me. And then, don't bother me pointlessly. You're just a mere book, there is no way you are telling this me to turn your page tediously right?」

It was a truly unreasonable command. However.

The huge book immediately transformed. Into a human girl—of age around twelve years old.

She had blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing frilly purple dress and black cloak, with an adorableness like a classic doll. She was wearing a black hat with wide brim on her head.

The girl who was born from a book elegantly bowed.

She faced the silver haired young man who was her master. He immediately laughed loudly.

「Hahahaha! So you transformed in order to answer my intent! Very well, I'll recognize your obedience. Next—open the closed gate to the sanctuary once more for my sake!」

「As.....you wish, your excellency marquis.」

The girl who seemed to be a grimoire spirit let out a fragile voice from her adorable lips.

Next, the girl's lips started to chant 『the words of power of sorcery』 as though she was singing.

「Spell searching, finished. The spell that is deemed necessary for the present situation is the 《Resurrection of Sacrament》, is this one's thought.」

The girl paused for a beat here, then she suddenly said.

「Sorcery 《Resurrection of Sacrament》, chanting finished.」

Right after that, at the seaside rocky area where the young man who was called marquis as well as the grimoire spirit were standing—an assembly of countless lights like a nebula suddenly appeared!





Space distortion. Even Ren had recognition of it.

(Riona! Do you understand what they were doing!?)

(He ordered his familiar to use sorcery that revive a space distortion that has vanished previously, I think.....)

It wasn't like there was any need for them to lower their voice.

But Ren and Riona who witnessed the decisive moment unconsciously whispered to each other with a small voice. However.

「Familiar—that interpretation is fundamentally correct.」

The young man with the alias 『marquis』 started speaking with his back still turned to Ren and Riona.

It seemed he had noticed the presence of the two Japanese since a long time ago. His hearing was like a wild beast. Ren couldn't help but felt impressed.

「But, let me add one thing. This thing in the first place is an authority that I usurped by killing an evil god that was worshipped by some heretic knights. All sorcery that exist in this world is transcribed within my grimoire which I can freely use.....it's that kind of power. However, it's in my disposition to find it bothersome to flip a book's page.」

The young man turned around. He stared straight at Ren and Riona.

He wasn't glaring at them. He was, right, it was like he wasn't wary toward the two of them. In the end he was simply perceiving them as object of interest.

「I've been thinking since a long time ago to improve its convenience of use. That's why just now I tried improvising a method. I believe that it worked quite well but what do you two think?」

「Well that's, I think it worked perfectly well you know, mister.」

Ren replied smilingly while thinking.

The young man clearly said 『authority』 . His wording was filled with intellect.

And yet, his gaze and his demeanor were ferocious like a wild beast. On top of that he only gave a glance at Rokuhara Ren before quickly focusing on only Rokuhara Ren.

Most likely he had seen through “Which is the godslayer?” in an instant.

Was it from his animalistic instinct, or was it due to his experience that was schooled by adversity of many battles? It was terrifying either way.

「Is mister also someone who has killed a god?」

Ren asked in order to approach the heart of the matter.

「I am Rokuhara Ren. Is it okay if I ask your name?」

「Fuh. If I'm facing a "colleague", then I have to introduce my name. Then let me tell you my family name, it's Voban.」

「Voban.....Marquis Voban-sama?」

「So you heard it. Your hearing is quite sharp.」

Marquis Voban grinned broadly. He looked at Rokuhara Ren with his emerald eyes.

「It's one of my title. Well, there is no need to remember it but, use it as you like if you find it easier to call me like that. I don't care how I am called.」

「Roger. Then Voban-san, I have a suggestion for you.」

Although his outside appearance was gentlemanly, his inside seemed to be really warped—.

Ren spoke while that doubt was gradually changing into conviction.

「I wish we can become friend. And then we can face against the danger to the world.....」

‘Together’. When he was about to say that,

『You mustn't Ren! You mustn't make that kind of proposal to that beast!』

Stella's yell entered his ear.

However, his lovely partner didn't show her figure like usual.

Could it be that Stella=Aphrodite was—scared of the godslaying marquis and she was hiding behind the back of Rokuhara Ren.....?

「Kid. I'll tell you first, I don't feel like playing with you here. But」

Mister Voban was chuckling as though he had noticed Stella's fear.

「If you can defeat my servant and chase after me—then I won't mind to enjoy a game with you once more at that time!」

「Servant?」

「Rokuhara-san, that!」

Riona who had been quiet all this time warned him.

Underneath Marquis Voban—from the seaside rocky area that was washed over by waves, two grey wolves sprang out. Both were big and burly that they could be mistaken as fighting bull.

The two wolves faced Ren and Riona and intimidated 『Gurururu-!』 ferociously.

「You have no way of knowing. That's why I'll introduce myself at least.」

Marquis Voban bragged with two fierce wolves obeying him.

「The gods called me godslayer, the humans of my native country feared me as demon king. And then, there was also time when I was called the king of the wolves. Because my first authority—is the power to summon a pack of wolves and control them as I wish.」

Marquis Voban looked at the surprised Ren while jumping backward with a light step.

That nimbleness was like a four-legged beast—it was exactly like a wolf. He leaped high and far toward the sea. He was diving backward.

However, the marquis wasn't heading toward the sea surface, but the light of space distortion—

「If you feel like it then come after me! Though I don't know if I'll have the time to play with you!」

The godslaying young man vanished into the light, leaving behind the arrogant boast.

.

5

GAaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

GAaaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

The two wolves that were left behind by the godslayer marquis leaped vigorously to the air. They attacked Ren and Riona while howling.

Even though their body was huge like a fighting bull, they were agile like lightning. However.

「Riona, let's us both act on our own!」

「That's my intention!」

Ren said and Riona replied. In that moment the two of them were already finished dodging.

The wolves were leaping at them. But, their movement was like a slow motion in Rokuhara Ren's eyes. He activated goddess Nemesis's authority with composure.

With godspeed that exceeded a wild beast's agility, he leaped more than ten meter in an instant.

Riona also transformed into a small blue swallow and escaped to the sky, causing the wolf's fangs to bite at empty air.

「Those wolves, could it be they aren't that strong?」

「If that's the case then it will be easy, but」

After Ren muttered, the blue swallow flying beside him also spoke in respond.

However, the event didn't go as they hoped. The two grey wolves—suddenly started to grow larger!

The first and the second wolf were rapidly turning huge while standing on their hind legs.

Their front legs also stretched out and became two arms. Like that the body of the two wolves became really similar like human.

But their neck above was still wolf. Their whole body was densely covered with thick hair. It was the so called 『werewolf』 form.

「Amazing, it's werewolf monster!」

「As expected from an authority that was stolen from god, it doesn't simply summon wolf!」

Two giant werewolves appeared.

*GAaaaAAAAAAAH! GAaaaAAAAAAAH!]

The two uncommon monsters ferociously roared at the same time. Seeing that the blue swallow also raised its voice with Toba Riona's voice.

「I will face those monsters. Rokuhara-san, do that!」

「Got it! Use your full strength as you please!」

Responding to Ren's permission, the small body of the blue swallow burned.

Crimson flame and gold radiance were emitted from her whole body. And then, the swallow incarnated into Yatagarasu while flying to the blue sky of Spain.

「Sacred flame pure and clear..... The secret words of fire and day, exorcist and purify!」

Riona who transformed into the sacred bird Yatagarasu was chanting the words of power of flame.

The large phoenix with wing length of 20 meter danced in the sky while dropping fire sparks like moth dropping scales. The giant werewolves that were only just born got bathed in it—.

GAaaaaaaAAAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAAHAH!

GAaaaaaaAAAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAAHAH!

As expected even the giant werewolves stopped moving at the same time and raised an agonized howl. They were glaring at the soaring gold feathered bird with bloodshot eyes.

But, the fang and claw of wolves that could only run on the ground couldn't possibly reach the firebird of the sky.

「Perhaps it will be an easy win thanks to Riona?」

It happened when Ren started to get optimistic.

From the dry seaside ground—grew wolves burblingly sprang out. Their number was around 80 in total.

They weren't monster sized, but sized the same like before which was equal to fighting bull. However, it seemed that they were agile due to their small size. They rushed toward Ren at the same time of their appearance.

GAAH! GAAH! GAAH! GAAH! GAAH! GAAH!

「Their target is me huh!」

It was an attack of wolf pack. Ren used his authority once more.

「The goddess of revenge bring down the divine punishment to misdeed that harm life——!」

Even mankind's most agile athlete wouldn't be a match against the average wolf.

But, the escaping speed of goddess Nemesis easily overturned that logic. The fangs and claws that should tear apart Rokuhara Ren's flesh and bone only cut empty air without exception. And then.

「I wish for the judgment of justice here——」

Nemesis, activate.

The wolves that attacked Rokuhara Ren consecutively and bit at empty air were annihilated right after that.

Scar bit into their windpipe that was covered by fur, inflicting a lethal wound. The claws and fangs that should tear Ren into pieces were bounced back to the wolf pack.

Kyaun! Kyaun! Kyaun! Kyaun!

Pained cries were rising in succession. The number of demon wolves that were born from the ground were reduced until less than twenty in less than two minutes.

But, during this time the battle between the enlarged wolves and Yatagarasu was——

Getting reversed.

「Eh!？」

Riona=Yatagarasu faltered.

There were two giant werewolves. When one of them howled 『GUAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!』, the flame enveloping its body suddenly vanished.

The howling voice just now seemed to be containing the miracle of exorcism.

And then, the giant werewolf—walked toward its comrade that was being burned by Yatagarasu's flame right beside it and it swung down its arm like a sword. *Zan*. The werewolf's head was lopped off.

The severed head rotated in the air and it flew, flew strongly until it reached Yatagarasu that was far above the sky.

GAAAAAAAAAH!

The giant monster wolf that had become only head went 『GAH!』 at the sacred bird's wing—biting into her right wing!

「KYAAAAAAAAAAAH!?!」

Riona's scream echoed in the sky.

Her shock and pain became a scream that gushed out from Yatagarasu's beak.

And then at this instant, the giant wolf that severed its comrade's head jumped with its whole strength and rushed up to the sky like a cannon shell. It clung at the sacred bird in the sky and bit!

Into the left hand or rather the left wing of Yatagarasu.

The right wing was also still getting bitten by the wolf's head.

Now both her wings were gnawed at. The golden colored Yatagarasu was falling toward the sea.

Even during this fall the wolf's head and the giant wolf kept gnawing at the sacred bird's both wings. They showed no sign of releasing their captured prey—.

「Riona!」

Ren yelled seeing his ally's pinch.

.

『Good grief! There is a limit in even being incorrigible, that godslayer!』

The guardian spirit the White Queen was laughing hard.

『A beast that belong to the earth dashed up until the sky and planted its fangs into the soaring firebird, that is an unprecedented strange occurrence!』

「Certainly, I also think that it's a situation so absurd it's ridiculous.」

Julio dispassionately commented toward the protector who was holding her stomach while laughing even now.

「Because of that the king of our association and his partner are falling into a pinch. Right now is the time where the Holy Grail and your strength should be used.」

『Umu. Leave it to me dear child.』

The two of them right now were under the blue sky.

Valencia Cathedral——. The bell tower that was built within it with a height of 50 meter was called Miguelete Tower. The tower was also the city's symbol. He climbed on its rooftop and stared at the south direction.

He could take an unbroken view of Valencia from here.

Many buildings used orange color for their roof and wall, giving the townscape a sense of unity.

Because there wasn't really any other tall building in this city which was common for an old city of Europe, this old tower was none other than the landmark of Valencia city.

But, of course——

There was no way he could see the battle of Ren and Riona that was going on at 200 km away from here.

Right now Julio was taking over the senses of the familiars—the herons that were created from Japanese paper by Toba Riona and currently were flying around in the sky of the battle site. He was viewing from afar the scene that was reflected in their vision.

Using the bond of divine mystery, he was also transmitting that information to the White Queen.

Julio chanted the ritual's words of power.

「O war god of the ancient spear. Receive the blessing of the Holy Grail.」

『Acknowledged. Obeying the ancient oath, this is the time for me to wield my spear.』

Beside Julio, the queen finally materialized.

Until now she existed only as a spirit body that stayed close to the descendant of Blandelli House. That was why her whole body was transparent. But right now the figure of female knight wearing chainmail, helmet, and white mantel obtained a definite physical body and achieved manifestation into this world—.

It was the result from the immense mystical force getting gpoured into the White Queen from the Holy Grail at the grand cathedral's basement.

Lightning coiled around the female knight's whole body with crackling sound.

「My spear. We will become the lightning from now. Come together with me!」

Right after the queen chanted the words of power, dark cloud suddenly gushed forth in the sky.

The cloud covered the sky above Valencia without leaving any gap. Thunder was rumbling inside the cloud, flash and sparks scattered, waiting for the time of liberation.

The clear blue sky from just now was like a lie. It was a supernatural phenomenon.

And then, a long spear suddenly appeared in the right hand of the queen.

「This throw with my full might, may it pierce the wolf's retainer!」

The queen threw the spear *BUN!.*

The spear flew through the sky and became lightning. It flew toward the south like a falling star while scattering reverberating thunder to the earth and sky.

The direction it was heading to was of course where the wolf monster was—.

•

G0000000000000000NN!

An extremely large lightning was flying along with a tremendous thunderclap.

It hit Riona=Yatagarasu who was falling to the sea. To be more accurate, it hit into the back of the giant wolf that was gnawing her left wing—.

GUuuuuaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!?!

The giant wolf easily ran out of strength from the strike of lightning attack that flew from far beyond.

Midway it turned into ash while the body of half man half wolf was falling into the sea.

On the other hand, Riona=Yatagarasu spread the wing that finally became free and caught the updraft to stop her fall somehow.

「With this curse, the blazing fire and I will purify and exorcist——!」

She slapped the flame's words of power to the wolf head that was still gnawing on her right wing.

The wolf head was already enveloped in fire from before, but with this the flame's combustion became even more fierce and its fangs were finally taken off from the golden wing.

Riona=Yatagarasu immediately spread both her wings and took distance from the wolf head.

「So Julio helped out!」

Ren was delighted. He was watching the scene from beginning to end from the ground.

It was the 『secret ritual of lightning』 that Campiones association kept in hiding as trump card. It was a miracle that was activated using the magic power pooled in the Holy Grail. It had been a long time since he saw it.

「We have this when fighting on earth so it's really helpful.」

Ren smiled, however, his face immediately returned to being serious.

At the sky above the wolf head that faced Riona=Yatagarasu howled
『GAAAAAAH!』

Then the absurd monster that was the head of a giant wolf floating in the air began to——fly smoothly.

Even though it was being fiercely burned by Yatagarasu's flame even now!

「Riona's fire isn't really effective!?!」

「That magical beast, it look a bit troublesome.....」

Stella suddenly threw an interjection. She appeared in a flash on Ren's left shoulder.

Perhaps she felt relieved that the godslayer who introduced himself as marquis was gone. The goddess of beauty and love who was slightly a wuss commented a bit self-importantly.

「But, well, if it's just one-on-one then I think she'll be able to manage somehow.」

「That wolf that became into head only, could it be it's really strong?」

「Of course. It's an underling that is created from a godslayer's authority. As expected the bird girl won't lose against it. But that beast, it's overly tenacious so she might have a hard time against it.....」

Also, Ren was attacked by several dozen wolves until just a little while ago.

Those wolves were already gone. He annihilated them without much effort using Goddess Nemesis's authority. Seeing how they were annihilated without leaving behind corpse was just to be expected from a supernatural monster—.

In any case, Ren now had nothing to do.

In contrast Yatagarasu and the wolf head were continuing to fight in the air.

The golden sacred bird spread both her wings and began to glide. The wolf head that was burned by crimson flame while floating in the air like will-o-wisp—Yatagarasu was circling around it as though to hold it in check.

For now the damage from the bite on her wings seemed to be little.

But, she wasn't pressing her attack like before. She must be getting careful.

The wolf head was silently waiting for Yatagarasu's attack. It judged that it wouldn't not be able to keep up with the opponent in the air and it waited for the instant when the prey came rushing at it—to assault the prey at that timing.

「Can't we call a god with Stella's power to help?」

「This is earth you know? There isn't any god or anything nearby.」

「As expected huh.」

With the battlefield located in the air, he also couldn't give reinforcement with the authority of retribution.

Because there was already nothing he could do except cheering her on, Ren prayed for Riona's safety and victory while staring fixedly at the circling Yatagarasu.

「It's normally the time to pray at the goddess of victory at this kind of time but」

Even if a man who killed a god did something like that, it didn't feel like the prayer would be answered.....

The moment Ren gave up, he muttered 「Hm?」

He felt like something opened at the bottom of his heart and body. A key was inserted into a gate that was locked until now, *click*—.

Something that overflowed from there rose to the sky. Toward the sky where his sworn ally was fighting hard.

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「Eh?」

Riona who transformed into Yatagarasu suddenly felt an out of place feeling.

The spirit of sun, the golden firebird. Her body that was the most prominent sacred bird Japan was proud of—was suddenly filled with extremely intense magical power.

It was completely sudden without any advance warning at all.

In addition, a conviction of 『Now is the time that victory is mine!』 that even felt like a feeling of omnipotence welled up in her.

「With this power——!」

Riona=Yatagarasu spontaneously flapped both her wings.

She strongly flapped her right and left wings and caused a wind. The gust that was created from that brought bluish white flame that showered the formidable wolf head!

It was an attack that she immediately unleashed following her conviction of victory and the welling up fighting spirit.

And then——

GUuuuuuAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

The wolf head endured on no matter how much crimson flame it got showered with until now. The tenacious monster was easily burned to ash within the bluish white blaze.

It turned into ash that scattered in the air.

The blaze just now was incomparable with the fire that Riona=Yatagarasu had unleashed until now——it was blazing hot as well as filled with the miracle of exorcism.

「Just, what in the world happened.....?」

Even though she obtained victory, Riona's thought was completely filled with doubt.

Chapter 2 – Fenrir Liberation

1

Heavy blizzard was blowing violently in that world.

The wind was really strong. It showed no sign of stopping at all, bringing countless snowflakes with it. The snow that was continuously raining down painted the land white, creating a snowfield with no end in sight.

It was truly a world of blizzard and ice.

「So this is the world of Norse mythology.....」

A man walking alone inside the snow muttered. Furthermore his voice was delighted.

It was the godslayer who taught this name to his young colleague just a little while ago, Marquis Voban.

Normally it would be impossible to go out in an intense blizzard like this. But, he completely wasn't bothered by the strongly blowing wind and snow and walked until this far.

The clothes he was wearing was the same with the one he was wearing in Spain.

But the godslaying marquis was being active without paying any intention to the freezing coldness

Wind, snow, and even the intense cold that they crated couldn't become any hindrance to him. It was the reverse. All of them were Dejanstahl Voban's servant to the utmost.

Snowy wind thoroughly showered him. He also firmly stepped on the deep snow.

But, his clothes and shoes weren't wet at all. His feet also weren't slowed down by the snow.

This too was a miracle from 『a certain authority』 that Voban possessed. That was why he was advancing through the snow field with the casualness like taking a stroll at a lake shore in a vacation.

However, the ferocious godslayer suddenly smiled wryly.

「I am a fanciful person but, I'm tired with this scenery that has nothing but snow.How about you hurry up?」

He asked toward empty air. An answer came as though it was only natural.

「Sorcery 《Search of God's Majesty》, finished. Current location of search target, confirming.」

What appeared from the snowy wind was the spirit of grimoire—.

She was a cute and fair-skinned beautiful girl wearing a purple frilly dress and a black hat with wide brim which was extremely ill-matched in this snow field that was stretching as far as the eye could see.

She was the avatar of the authority 《Singing Spell Book》 that Voban possessed.

「Good. Then bring me until there.」

「.....By your will. Using sorcery Flight Magic.」

The two of them were enveloped by a golden light and flew away to the blizzard's sky.

Like that they crossed the snowfield, passed several snowy mountains, and they finally arrived at a canyon. There was a “monster” at its bottom.

「So this is it.」

Voban narrowed his eyes above the cliff where he could look down at the bottom.

At the bottom of the canyon far below—a 『wolf』 with body length that reached 50 meter was lying down. The fur of its whole body was ominously jet black.

The thick neck of the giant wolf was tied by many ropes.

And then, this ropes were connected to the ground by wedges.....

「Grimoire. What is the detail of that beast's so called myth?」

「Demon wolf Fenrir—. A child of the female giant Angrboda. It is extremely ferocious and powerful. Even though the gods wish to apprehend this wolf, it cannot be suppressed by any kind of chain. Its freedom is finally taken away using the magic rope that was created by the dwarf. However as the price, the war god Tyr lost his right arm.....」

The girl answered smoothly. Voban laughed with a low voice.

「Ah, that's it. I have been thinking all this time from a long time ago when I heard it for the first time. That someday I want to—compare my strength with that Fenrir, which one of us is the strongest wolf. It's childish even if I say so myself, just a nonsensical idea but, the day it comes true finally arrive.」

That talking voice seemed to catch attention. The black wolf at the bottom of the canyon stirred.

The wolf still hadn't risen up. However, the eyes of the demon wolf Fenrir had opened and his gaze turned up—toward Voban who was looking down on him from the cliff.....

「Don't be impatient. The crucial matter is still not finished yet.」

Voban snickered.

「Fenrir. This magic rope thing that captured you—I'll sever it. I just happened to obtain the right authority before coming to this world.」

He took out a sheathed knife from his inner coat's pocket.

He unsheathed it. The exposed steel blade was lifted to the sky and Voban spoke.

「Something like a sword can only cut down a single man, a single beast at best in the end. But, this blade of Voban is different. When my sword is swung down, thing that shouldn't decay will decay to ruin, thing that shouldn't break will scatter to pieces. The Gordian knot is severed and ruin arrive equally—」

That was the words of power to evoke an authority.

The divine power to destroy to immortal and indestructible thing was dwelling inside the knife. Voban grinned and threw that blade toward the canyon.

The knife fell like a falling star, stabbing the 『rope』 that was binding Fenrir.

The rope was so smooth it looked like silk. It was thin and sleek. However, it wouldn't be severed no matter how much strength the demon wolf exerted. It was that kind of divine tool.

Voban's knife deeply cut into that cord—.

「Originally it's an authority that destroy a country that should be undefeatable and kill immortal god and monster. But like this, it's useful to free you. Now is the time you can dispel the suffering of the long imprisonment, Fenrir. This me will accept all your rage!」

The black giant wolf got up at the canyon that Voban was looking down at.

Before anyone knew it the cord tying Fenrir—was crumbling to pieces.

—GURURURURURURUuuuuuUUUUU-!

The demon wolf of Norse mythology made a low growl.

At the same time the ground shook and even the air that was mixed with snow was rumbling.

The liberation of the demon wolf Fenrir shook heaven and earth. It was a serious matter that threatened even the peace of the planet. The two ominous eyes of the beast stared fixedly at the godslayer. Killing intent was overflowing from them.

Voban laughed loudly and yelled with naked fighting spirit.

「Hahahaha! Very good Fenrir. Let's make it clear which of us is the stronger wolf!」

Instantly, the godslayer's body transformed into wolf.

It wasn't just a mere wolf. He transformed into a grey wolf with size and ferocity that wasn't at any way inferior against Fenrir. And then the wolf that was the transformed Voban leaped to the bottom of the canyon—.

GAaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

* GAaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!*

Jet black and grey, the two giant wolves clashed right from the front. They simultaneously ripped at each other with their front legs and claws, in order to greedily devour each other's flesh and blood with their sharp and strong fangs.

The rumbling of the earth and the sky was getting increasingly fiercer.

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「Oo. Athena of the shining eyes.」

A handsome youthful god grinned on the summit of a certain snowy mountain.

His inhuman eyes clearly caught the sight of the intense battle at the canyon several mountains ahead of him. The confrontation of jet black demon wolf Fenrir and the grey wolf that murdered god—.

Even the blizzard that still didn't show any sign of stopping wasn't any obstruction to the eyes of a mighty god.

「For you who is overflowing with wisdom and the foolish godslayer to bear the same scheme..... Don't you think that it's a really interesting development?」

「Fumu.」

Goddess Athena muttered in respond to the words of her fellow Greek god.

「Certainly it's just as you said, o radiant Apollo.I who am also a god of wisdom know. When the destruction of the world is starting in this place that is located far north than our sanctuary, that demon wolf Fenrir will awaken—」

Although she looked like a young girl, she was also a might goddess.

The goddess of wisdom and war Athena. She departed from the sanctuary of Troia due to a certain thinking and traveled until this wintry northern sanctuary.

Although, the land of this place and Troia wasn't adjoined with each other.

She crossed the interval of space and went into a supernatural travel that went through the gap between worlds. And then this time the handsome sun god Apollo was accompanying her for some reason.

Athena spoke to her company.

Phoibos

「O radiant god. My objective to 『bring destruction to the north sanctuary』 has been unexpectedly accomplished. I'm planning to head to the next sanctuary to search for a new bud of destruction.」

The one who wished for the destruction of Troia more than anyone at the Trojan before this was——

If the chief god Zeus was excluded, there was no doubt that it would be his daughter Athena.

Apollo recalled that. And then now the shiny eyed princess god left Greece, went around sanctuaries that originally weren't related at all with her to indiscriminately attempt to destroy them.....

However Apollo had no intention to stop her.

They were 『god』 .

How could they called themselves god if they couldn't destroy one or two worlds as they pleased. It didn't matter whether the motive was a mere whim, for fun, or because of a deep circumstance——.

And above all else Apollo himself was also in a journey 『to accomplish his own desire』 .

「What will you do, Apollo?」

「I will still remain here. There is something I'm a bit curious about.」

「.....Hou」

「What is it, Zeus's divine daughter?」

「No, it's nothing. Come to think of it you're a god who was born outside Greece. According to the hearsay, your native land is in the north. Do you have some kind of ancient bond with this land?」

「No, no」

Apollo smiled wryly at the searching gaze of Athena.

「My homeland isn't a land this far north. But, what that accursed godslayer is trying to accomplish——it concerned me. I intend to ascertain it

myself.Even so, I wonder how many gods he has killed until now.」

The wolves fought each other at the far away. For the time being there was no sign that the mortal combat would end.

And then, the godslaying grey wolf controlled wind and blizzard while breathing out thunder from his mouth, displaying an equal battle against the Norse's demon wolf Fenrir—.

「That godslayer, it seems he had defeated a 《storm god》 or a 《blizzard god》. And then he had also killed a 《god that severed even destiny that should be everlasting》. There is also a 《god of black magic》 from somewhere. But, what made him powerful above all else is—」

「The authority that he usurped from a terrifying 《wolf god》.」

Athena nodded.

「It should be a wolf that possessed a divine might that isn't at all inferior against the caller of the end, the demon wolf Fenrir. I wonder, just which divine beast he killed.....」

「Oo. Look at that Athena, the wolves are heading toward the direction of the 『wall』.」

Apollo was pointing at the world below from the summit of the snow mountain.

Strangely—there was a territory that was surrounded by a protective wall in this mythological world. Right now, the jet black Fenrir and the godslaying grey wolf were fighting near a wall.

Their gigantic body collided on each other. They swung their claws and bit with their fangs.

Amidst that they also often crashed on the wall. The wall looked really solid, but it was unable to endure against the way the two demon wolves were rampaging—

Some places of the protective wall were getting broken. Apollo muttered.

「The other side of that long wall seems to be really vast.」

「Most likely the other side is the country of the humans. You see, it seems that in the sanctuary of the north, humans are living in a kingdom that was built 『behind a wall』 . And then」

While it was a situation of a far foreign country, Athena taught Apollo about it as though it was only natural.

「To be more precise, that isn't a wall. Perhaps it ought to be called as fence instead.」

「Now that you say it, certainly it looks like it.」

Apollo nodded.

It was a long wall that its end couldn't be seen even with a god's sight. However, the wall was made from 『stone pillars』 sticking close to each other to the degree that there was no gap in between.

Certainly it was more a fence rather than a wall. Perhaps it should be called as a protective fence.

「You see, the first life that was born in this sanctuary.....was the giant of origin Ymir. It seems that wall was his “eyelashes”. It fenced the land and protected the humans.」

「I see. As expected from Athena, how knowledgeable.」

「Enough with the flattery. I'm going now. Farewell, heaven-sent-child of darkness who is crowned with the sun.」

Goddess Athena said that as her last words and vanished.

Apollo who was left alone grinned a ruffian's smile and watched the lower world once more. The battle of the ferocious demon wolves still didn't look like it would end——

「Oh?」

He surveyed the far beyond, at the 『wall's inner part』 where the humans were said to live.

Apollo sensed that there was an old acquaintance there. It was the girl who he once tried to employ as his priestess. Because of that he was able to sense her presence even though there was this much distance.

「How surprising, there is another traveler from the south other than us.That girl too has grown to be really interesting.」

The sun god who came from the south was grinning while talking to himself.

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2

Sanctuary Midgard.

In this world that was called as Norse mythology by the human of earth, the territory where human race was living was called Midgard. It was the origin of the sanctuary's name.

Midgard. It had a shade of meaning of middle country.

After all it was located at a land that stretched out right in the middle of an ocean, and furthermore it was located at the middle of that land.

By the way the country where the gods were living was called Asgard and Vanaheimr. And then, the land where the giant was living was on other land, Jotunheimr and others—.

The country of the giants was desolate. It was a land that only had dark forest and swamp, and then freezing wasteland.

In contrast, the humans' Midgard was a fertile land with abundant crops.

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「My. In other words the country of human Midgard and the land where giant race is living are separated by 『this wall』 then.」

The silver haired girl muttered the knowledge that she had “just obtained”.

Half a day had passed since she arrived at mythological world Sanctuary Midgard.

During that time, she was walking around without any destination in mind following her fancy.

There were a lot of green trees in Midgard. There were grove of trees and forest everywhere. The field with its golden wheat ears ripening was also beautiful and vast. And then what was striking above all else was the 『wall』 .

The wall was so long—to the degree it looked as though it was continuing on until the end of this world.

Thick and solid stone pillars were clustered close to each other like hair, forming a gigantic structure in the shape of protective wall. It was ten times higher than the girl's back.

Even the rampart protecting the city of her birth place looked like a toy compared to this.

「The giants are savage and extremely dangerous on top of that.....they are monster! Then, let's be careful so they won't find me!」

The girl who was traveling alone nodded.

While a trace of innocence remained in her beautiful face, her body figure was completely mature.

Furthermore her attire was on thin make—it was something weaved in a land that was far south from here. But, she was properly defending against the cold with a thick coat for travelling.

It was because she expected, no, “foresighted” that she would travel in a land that was locked in snow.

She prepared thick coat as 『traveling preparation』 , furthermore she borrowed a certain sacred treasure from the treasure warehouse of “her house” Troia's palace.

The feather decoration of Hermes who was the protector god of travelling in Greek mythology.

She put it inside a leather bag that was hanged on her sash even now.

This was truly the greatest treasure for traveler, furthermore if the feather was touched even from above the bag, various knowledge regarding the travel destination would flow in—.

「If the giants invaded to the inner part of the wall because of some kind of chance.....the giants who are hungering for blood will rampage indiscriminately and kill a lot of people!? What a terrifying story. Even though this country Midgard is this beautiful!」

The girl was born and raised near the sea.

However, the air of her birth place was drier. There were also few trees there. Tree that was raised to a tall length was precious. But, in Midgard here—so to speak it was a world of tree.

It was abundant with greenery, the river that was flowing through the land was crystal clear, and the air was refreshing.

Unlike the sanctuary that was ruled by the gods of Olympus, the wind blowing in this world was terribly cold.

But, even that coldness contained pleasantness that tightened the body—. Troia's princess Cassandra took a deep breath and tasted the air of another world.

「As expected this trip after so long is enjoyable!」

But, there wouldn't be just enjoyment in this trip. She knew it from her foresight.

In fact, Cassandra immediately found it.

The great wall that should be separating the land of human race Midgard and the giants territory—a part of it was greatly crumbling, creating a passage that was becoming a bypath.

Furthermore, there were several other places that were also crumbling.

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The long rampart that was separating Midgard with the outside country.

There were monsters that were going around destroying it here and there—two of them.

The jet black demon wolf king Fenrir that was released at the end of Norse mythology, and a giant and powerful grey wolf that was rivaling it.

The two's brawling destroyed the wall here and there. The giants who noticed that were—

Crossing the wall one by one.

Lured by the thundering sound of the rampaging two wolves, their presence, the surging divine power and fighting spirit, the bunch of giants that were especially ferocious even among their race gathered until near the wall in groups of twos and threes.

They found the bypath and crossed the wall.

At the other side was already the land of the humans, the beautiful Midgard.

Outside the wall there was only wasteland. There wasn't even any vegetation. There were also a lot of areas that wouldn't stop snowing throughout the year. And yet.

Midgard was blessed with clear water and wind. It possessed abundant forest and arable land—.

Roaming within that scenery was giant. Giant. Giant. Giant.

However, although they were all called giant, their size was varied. When there were giants with size that was twice or thrice of human, there were also those that were only as big as a large human man.

Conversely there was also stupidly huge giant that was like a 『moving small mountain』 .

Anyway, all the giants had blank expression.

The growl that leaked out from their mouth was dull and unintelligible. It was hard to call them intellectual.

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GUuuuuAAAAAAAH!

GUuuuuAAAAAH! GUuuuuAAAAAH!

GUuuAAH! GUuuAAH! GUuuAAH! GUuuAAH!

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The giants were making idiotic sounding growl while scattering to everywhere.

Smart giant that acted as group was few. Their clothing in general was ragged. It was better to call all of them half-naked.

But, in return——

Their 『explosive power』 when they discovered human settlement was tremendous.

「KYAAAAAAAAAAH!?!」

「Send the women and children away! The giants are attacking!」

「Dammit, where did they come from!?!」

「Father, father!」

「Stop don't kill that kid please——AAAAAAAAAAAH!」

Everywhere the giants were going, they were approaching the humans with relatively quick movement for their size.

Their powerful arms mowed down the weak flock of prey.

Necks were easily twisted, limbs were torn off from the torso.

Body that was filled with entrails and head attached was crushed underfoot with a splat, then it was kicked away. Large teeth and jaw bit humans apart. Head butt and body tackle crushed houses along with the humans inside.

There were also some giants that picked up random piece of large tree or rock to use as weapon.

But, it was the same whether they had weapon or not.

The size of the giants was varied, but every single one of them shared the common point of 『possessing physical strength as well as huge size that could curbstomp mere human without any thought』 .

Although.

Midgard also had their own share of warriors and heroes.

The warriors of human race who continued to polish their valor and martial arts for long years were—.

「aaaAAAaaaaAAAAAAAH!」

「Die, giants! I'll give you my life in exchange!」

「Uwahahahaha! Do you think I'll die just because I got my guts dragged out!? Even if I die I won't die before splitting your ugly head and take you with me to death!」

「O my god Odin, watch closely the way we died!」

The humans were clad in hardened leather and iron armor and wearing fur.

Wielding long sword, battle axe, and long spear, they met the giants. Their intense way of fighting was obviously uncommon.

Being injured—no, even death didn't scare them. They attacked the enemy right from the front.

They charged forward facing giant race who had overwhelmingly superior physique. They attacked from the front with their sword and spear, they just charged forward no matter what. They paid no heed whether it was impossible or reckless, they were simply charging.

In fact, even when they were wounded from doing that—the humans didn't falter at the slightest.

「GAaaaAAAAAAAH!」

「Die, die, die, die, it's you damn giants who will fall to hell!」

With a vigor and roar that made it unclear which one of them was giant, they raised a strange voice and wholeheartedly faced the giants before them.

Well, many of the humans got the table turned on them and unsightly paid their due.

But, among them there were also those who took down the giant with them through that foolhardiness. There were also those who forcibly defeated the giants.

They were berserk, the berserkers that the sanctuary of Norse boasted of.

In addition there were also berserkers who possessed magic sword and magic spear that were forged by the dwarves of the depth of earth. They succeeded in achieving great deed of killing all the giants they encountered.

And then, the Valkyries that were watching over the fight of the humans were also—.

「Look. Gudmund of Gimli clan has died!」

「That's a splendid death. Even our father Odin will surely send him an applause.」

「It's truly praiseworthy how he slaughter the vile giant in exchange of his life. In respect to that he can enjoy a brief rest in Valhalla.」

Einherjar

「The deceased braver will become warrior of heavens and stand in the battlefield of Ragnarok someday!」

The beautiful celestial maidens whispered to each other.

Riding war horse that galloped in the sky, the group of Valkyrie was flying around Midgard that had suddenly become reeking of blood.

These women were goddess of the battlefield who were serving the chief god Odin.

When braver who was worthy to be welcomed to the heavens died, they would collect their corpse.

Every valkyrie was wearing leather armor and helmet with feather attached. Their long mantel flapped above their horse. Their hand was carrying a spear.

Right now they were rushing to the hero who took down a giant in exchange of his life.

The golden wheat field that spread out extensively—in one corner of it.

Gudmund of Gimly clan was lying face down and breathed his last.

In front of him there was a giant that was twice as big as him which he killed.

The brave Gudmund leaped toward the giant's chest with the preparedness to die and stabbed his spear, piercing the giant's solar plexus.

But even with his vital spot gouged, the giant swung down his arm and split open the brave warrior's head.....

As the result both of them died. The valkyries simultaneously rushed down in order to mourn the brave warrior and stepped on the ground with their own feet.

「Now, everyone. Let's grant a blessing to Gudmund's valor!」

One of the valkyries raised her voice while looking down on the two corpses.

Right after that, suddenly—

[illegible]

The giant that should have died suddenly raised a strange voice and somehow lifted up his upper body. He reached out with his arm. This hand tightly grabbed the slender body of one valkyrie and ruthlessly—crushed the body into a splatter.

Naturally, that valkyrie died.

But, it was splendid how the women didn't scream or anything at their comrade's death.

Each of them raised their spear, drew out their long sword from the sheath, and prepared for battle. In order to completely kill the dying giant.

However, *hyun* an arrow flew at this timing.

It deeply pierced the forehead of the struggling giant and took the life of the giant that failed to die with surety this time—.

「Everyone, are you all safe!？」

And then, the archer who killed the giant hurriedly approached.

Surprisingly it was a female. A beautiful girl with silver hair who was still young. Her ears were slightly pointy, showing that she descended from the gods or the elves.

「Lady. Our gratitude for your assistance.」

The leader of the valkyries acted as the representative that expressed their thanks.

Then the valorous woman who displayed her exquisite skill of archery smiled bashfully.

「My name is Cassandra. Please forgive my meddlesome just now. But, there is something that I wish to ask no matter what, so I rendered my assistance.」

The princess of Troia Cassandra——.

With a wooden long bow that she brought from her hometown as 『one of her journey's preparation』, she approached the valkyries.

「Do you know of a person called Rokuhara Ren?」

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「So we arrived, to this world of Norse mythology.」

「It seems to be better to not dawdle after all.」

Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona.

They encountered a godslayer who introduced himself as a marquis in the southeast part of Spain and somehow triumphed against the magic beasts that he left behind. Right after that, they leaped into the space distortion in front of them.

There was a large forest right nearby.

It was a dense forest many trees growing thickly. Momi fir, Siebold's beech, elm tree, etc. There were many broadleaf trees here.

The area the two of them were standing at was a lush meadow. A clean small river was flowing slightly ahead of them. The scenery looked really idyllic.

Ren's eyes sparkled seeing the unexpectedly beautiful scenery.

「What a good place. Is this what they call a scenic panorama?」

「Unlike the region with Mediterranean Sea's climate, this place has plenty of water and greenery. But, for me this is a 『mythological world that I don't want to come to if possible』, as much as I don't want to come to the world of chivalry romance in Middle Ages.」

Unlike Ren, Riona looked a bit gloomy.

「This is an environment with various things that are hard to digest. Troia was also really something but, this place is exceeding that place.....it's a savage world after all.」

「？」

Ren tilted his head and then his body shivered.

The blowing wind was excessively cold. Perhaps it was just to be expected from Norse mythology. It was a bit cold with him wearing the same clothes like when he was at the warm Spain.

「By the way Riona. What's with that change of clothes?」

「Of course I brought it from earth. It's easy to move with, and it's really functional.」

Riona who moved behind a tree unbelievably finished her change of clothes before returning.

It was the blazer that she was wearing in Japan. The uniform that seemed to be the designated clothing of a young lady school.

「I won't need to bring many luggage by using this.」

A talisman suddenly appeared in Riona's right hand.

The piece of paper that was written with spell quickly changed into a shoulder bag that seemed to be filled with various things. It was the technique of compact storing that she also showed at Sanctuary Troia.

Riona immediately returned her bag into her talisman and said.

「Now. Let's begin collecting information!」

She sent out a lot of the regular white heron shikigamis flying to scout the surrounding——

After more than ten minutes, the result quickly came out.

「It seems to be really chaotic.....」

Riona walked until the bank of the small river that was flowing nearby.

She projected all the information that her shikigamis saw on its water surface with psychic photography. The beautiful small river that was transparent the bottom could be seen became an improvised multi-screened monitor.

Like this, Rokuhara Ren could watch.

The scene of the defensive wall of Midgard getting broken here and there, with the giants entering from there.

「I've seen 『story of giants attacking from the other side of the wall』 like this from somewhere. Even though I shouldn't really know about the myth of Norse.」

「Perhaps it's from manga or anime of titan attacking.」

「Ah, that's it!」

「The motive of Norse mythology getting transmitted to modern Japan as creative work like novel or film is something common. But unfortunately, three dimensional maneuver doesn't exist in Sanctuary Midgard.」

「That's terrible.」

「In exchange, there are berserkers who doesn't fear death in Norse mythology.」

「That name also feel familiar.」

「It's about the berserker like in RPG, a mad warrior. Norse mythology is a mountain of source for 『fantasy RPG』 that we modern Japanese are familiar with after all.」

「Eh, is that so?」

「Yes. Though I think at this point of time many creators are reusing the material without being aware that the original source of those ideas came from here.」

Riona's face was getting serious even while making the pointless talk.

Dozens of monitors were laid out on the water surface of the small river. In several of the monitors, the giants were rampaging brutally with their powerful arms and huge body.

And then, the bypaths that were created in the wall——

Just from a glance there were eight or nine noticeable spots. Human settlements that were located near the bypaths were around several dozens.

All of them could possibly become attack target of the giants. Riona muttered.

「The impression that I got is that the number of giants invading Midgard is around 100 to 200. That's only for now though.」

「If the holes in the wall aren't quickly blocked, then the number will increase more.」

「That's right. But, right now rescuing lives in each settlement and exterminating the giants should be the priority. Chasing after the marquis somehow will be after that.」

As expected from the sacred bird of guidance, the incarnation of Yatagarasu.

Riona easily decided their course of action and gave suggestion to Ren.

「Roger. I intend to show my face at Takako-san's place when returning to Spain, so let's take care of this as fast as possible.」

「You're going to visit that woman intentionally?」

It was a pressing situation. However, it would be meaningless even if they were getting aimlessly hurried.

Ren felt that it would be better to relax the tension on their shoulder slightly. He intentionally talked about an unrelated topic. Riona might be thinking the same. She immediately jumped on the topic.

「But, I think Rokuhara-san should have noticed it too. The girl is someone who tends to fall in love easily and she has several male friends whose atmosphere with her isn't bad. It looks like she will go out with one of them before long. Even without Rokuhara-san looking after her, it will only make it happen faster isn't it?」

「Well, you might be right about that. But Riona」

Ren nodded at the accurate advice, even so he felt puzzled.

「Did I tell Riona about those things?」

「You didn't tell me? I don't really remember. More importantly Rokuhara-san, please call Stella. There is something that I want to ask her.」

It became the turn for his “partner” due to Riona's request.

The mini goddess who shared heart and body with Ren was Stella or also known as Aphrodite.

「What do you want, bird girl?」

「It's about that authority, the Friendship Circle. Can it also call for a friend even in this “world that you don't have any acquaintance from the start”? The cultural sphere of Norse mythology should be far removed from the area that became the stage of Greek mythology.」

「Of course it can. Please don't underestimate a goddess of love.」

Stella sat down on Ren's left shoulder while acting arrogantly.

「You see, at this kind of time you should just send the thought to the four directions anyway. By doing that, the prayer will reach to “a god who has good compatibility with me” nearby, asking them to come running here.」

「Then, please use it immediately! Because this time nothing beats having a lot helper. It doesn't matter whether they are god or hero or fairy, we will greatly welcome any useful reinforcement!」

Thus—

Stella recited the words of power toward the heaven.

「Come, o friend of foreign country who I hasn't met yet. Please briefly honor the goddess of beauty and love who were born in Cyprus with your sympathy and friendship—I beg you dearly!」

The adorable voice of the goddess resounded through the sky.

They waited for a few minutes after that. Ren and Riona exchanged look, wondering whether this time it was a dud while Stella who was full of confidence was starting to look around restlessly in a bit of anxiety. It was at that time.

Blink-!

Something shined from far away in the blue sky.

Right after that, a thunderclap *DOoooOOOONNN* roared and a streak of lightning fell in front of them.

「Was it you who called for me, my unknown friend?」

The white smoke that was generated along with the falling lightning caused them to be unable to see anything for a while, but,

When the smoke was clearing up, a young man's gallant figure became clear to see. Perhaps in order to soften the impact of the landing, he was squatting on the ground. Furthermore it was with one knee posture. His

right leg and left knee and his left hand in addition touched the ground. It was the posture of 『three-point landing』 .

That posture would absolutely cause the knee to hurt but, it was very cool.

Ren unconsciously whispered seeing the pose that he often saw in action movie.

「.....It's the superhero landing.」

「.....It's the superhero landing isn't it.」

Riona also opened her eyes wide in agreement.

The young man who came from the sky was holding a hammer with his right hand that wasn't used for the three-point landing.

It was a heavy looking steel hammer with short handle. It seemed to be a weapon. He himself was muscular giving him an appearance that looked extremely burly.

Blonde hair and blue eyes. His slightly wavy hair grew out until below his shoulder.

He was quite handsome. However because of the density of his facial features, he simply looked manly.

He was wearing feathered helmet, chainmail, steel gauntlets, and red mantel, with her hand holding a hammer.

「I am a legitimate great hero. The protector of the world, god of lightning Thor.」

He stood up straight and introduced himself proudly.

「You better engrave this name into your chest!And, which one of you was calling for me?」

「It's me, Thor-sama!」

Stella spoke energetically from Ren's left shoulder.

「This is our first meeting-. But just from a glance I have realized that you are a renowned god of war! Aa, what a joyful encounter this is!」





Stella's eyes sparkled and she made an upward glance.

Her voice sounded livelier than usual. It seemed she was getting serious in order to butter up the lightning god Thor who descended from the sky.

And then, the youthful god of Norse mythology also seemed to enjoy it somewhat.

「Oo, is that so. As I thought when it comes to a god of my stature, something will naturally exude out from myself. Even without saying anything it's like my back has been talking by itself.....」

「But of course♪Ren, put me down.」

Stella whispered in a low voice at the middle and then instantly.

Stella's eyes shined sharply like a hunter that had discovered a prey.

Ren moved naturally like a waiter of a famous restaurant serving the dish. He presented the doll sized small goddess with a flowing movement using both his hands.

Stella teleported with a pop and moved to the left shoulder of the brawny Thor.

「By the way the unrivaled under heaven Thor-sama, can I talk with you for a little bit?」

「Wait wait. Certainly I am a man of valor that can be counted on one's fingers event throughout the world, but it's not to the level that I can be called unrivaled. Uwahahahaha」

「My, what humility. Even though you have this really strong looking body.」

「Stop it, stop it. If you pinch my arm, that slender looking finger might break.」

「Oh my, truly. The muscle of Thor-sama's arm is like a steel. How sturdy, what a reliable gentleman you must be. I'm really surprised.」

「Wahahaha. Girl, I don't know where do you come from, but you are a goddess who really know how to talk.」

「Please don't talk as though this Stella is a woman who is all talk. Everything is due to Thor-sama's virtue. I am simply saying what I'm feeling honestly without adding anything.」

「Fuhahahaha」

The lightning god laughed in a good mood. Stella was also smiling ingratiatingly on his left shoulder.

The belt warpped around her waist was shining in rose color when anyone noticed. Aphrodite's divine tool the Girdle of Friendship and Love was in the middle of activation. Furthermore she also didn't miss doing body contact by touching all over Thor's shoulder, upper arm, cheek, and ear.....

Riona stealthily whispered beside Ren.

(Stella's authority is really amazing. When speaking of lightning god Thor, he is the Norse mythology's number one simple-minded and hot-blooded person. Perhaps, he is the first place in the "easy" friend candidate. To hit the jackpot right in the first roll of gacha like this.....)

(Ah. So he is that kind of person just as I thought?)

(Of course, this is only possible because of Stella's power that took advantage of that. If there is wine here, Stella will absolutely make him drink vigorously.)

(If Stella get serious, it feels like she will be as composed as store owner in Ginza after all.)

(Come to think of it, Apollo said it. The men of Greek mythology all presented tribute to Aphrodite or something.)

The mini goddess-sama at this kind of time was reassuring.

The two of them were secretly conversing while staring at Stella buttering up the grinning lightning god.

Also, the lightning god Thor was far taller than even Rokuhara Ren who was just shy of being 180 cm. Most likely Thor was around two meter tall with weight of more than 120 kg.

Even then there wasn't any impression of 『increasing body mass forcefully』 like what sumo wrestler did from him at all.

His physique was completely proportional. Even though he was an extraordinarily large man, he also looked agile.

But the point that was more amazing than anything else was—the mightiness of divine strength welling up from his whole body. Ren instinctually felt it. The lightning god Thor should be a powerful warrior who rivaled that Athena.

「By the way does Thor know? Right now the giants are devastating the settlements of humans.」

「What, is that true Stella!?!」

The two gods had quickly become able to talk casually with each other.

Stella talked with a casual tone to the tense lightning god.

「The girl over there is more or less a half human half god bird girl. It seems she is planning to go helping the humans after this. If you have time, is it alright for you to give her your assistance?」

「Obviously it's alright! I'm also a protector of Midgard!」

It was better to not disclose Rokuhara Ren's godslaying background as much as possible—.

Riona stepped forward in order to act as the leading actor as much as possible for the time being under that policy. She waved her hand toward the small river that was acting as substitute for monitor. She projected a new psychic photography.

「Please look. It's the map of this area and the location of the giants.」

「Oo, this is convenient!」

Thor praised Riona's technique.

The topographic map that was overlooking the surrounding from the sky like an aerial photograph was displaying green pasture and forest, mountain, river, wheat field with ripe golden wheat head, vegetable field, human habitation, etc.

And then, the appearance point of the giants was shown with 『blinking red dot』 .

This was something Riona prepared while Stella and Thor were in the middle of chatting.

She united the information of the shikigamis flying around all over the place and sorted the present situation in great detail.

「I will commence an 『aerial bombing』 to the giants based on this information. Can I ask Thor-sama to take care of the giants that I missed?」

「Hou! What kind of technique you will use for that?」

「Rather than telling it from my mouth, it will be faster to just see it directly. —Rokuhara-san.」

「Got it. Riona, annihilate the monsters right away with your full power!」

「Of course!」

Right after Ren allowed it, Riona's body was enveloped in golden flame.

—The extermination targets were scattered everywhere. If it was human with shallow thought then they would start defeating the giant that was the nearest from here.

But Riona intentionally waited until all the information was collected without taking any action.

Because that way would be faster and more efficient to annihilate all the giants appearing everywhere. As the result more human lives would be saved.

Toba Riona showed a grit that was impossible for a normal high school girl.

She fearlessly smiled while transformed into the sacred bird Yatagarasu and climbed to the sky.

「Girl, so you're actually a bird of fire!」

The lightning god Thor watched in amazement.

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「Sacred flame pure and clear—」

Riona=Yatagarasu chanted the fire's words of power while imagining it.

The surrounding map and the blinking red dots on it. She exerted her divine power in order to burn all those red dots into ash!

「This lowly self wish to reverently state at the presence of Sume-Mikami.....by the means of blazing fire, I beg you to hold the purification ceremony, to cleanse the sinful impurity—!」

The large body with wings span that exceeded twenty meter went up in flames. Crimson flame scattered to all directions.

The flame became cannon shells like volcanic projectiles, flying to various places. It went ahead to several kilometer at the nearest and 100 kilometer at the farthest.

The number of this flying flame reached fifty or sixty in approximation.

All of them were heading to the 『red dots』 that the shikigamis reported, the locations of the giants.

And then—Riona's spiritual sense felt it.

How the giants everywhere were burning from getting showered with flame that came down from the sky.

The giant who were wandering aimlessly.

The giants who were roaring out the ferocity in their heart.

Giants who were swinging up their fist. Giants who were just a moment away from tearing apart humans.

All of them were showered with flame and they burned to ashes that not even their bone was left behind.

Furthermore, the captured humans didn't even get a single burn. Even though they were showered by flame from the sky together with the giants. It was truly a divine act.

But, the giants that were defeated by the flame just now were only half of their total number—.

The remaining half somehow endured even while getting fiercely burned. They were flailing to shake off the flame or rolling around on the ground to extinguish the fire. Among them there were even giants who chanted spell and escaped danger with the sorcery of fire extinguishing.

「It can't be helped. After all when speaking about the giant race of Norse, they are a relative of the gods」

Riona grinned without any surprise.

(Though to be more accurate, it was 『Riona's consciousness that transformed into Yatagarasu's soul』)

The giants that survived were those with high divinity. She would just attack them with the same method one or two more times to consign them to oblivion. If there were giants that couldn't be defeated even with that, they might be a relative of frost giant or flame giant. At that time she would ask the lightning god Thor to sally out—

「Ah, come to think of it」

Suddenly Riona=Yatagarasu recalled.

The bluish white flame that appeared when she burned the wolf head at earth before this. If she could use that again.

However, at that time they hurriedly departed to Midgard so she shelved it away but, just what in the world was that.....?

「Hahahahaha! Fire bird girl, you thought up a nice move!」

The lightning god Thor's voice suddenly resounded in the sky.

The manly youthful god had climbed to the sky when she noticed. Furthermore he was taking higher position than Riona=Yatagarasu until a spot where he could survey across the lower world with a gaze that was full of confidence.

As expected from the supreme ruler of lightning that soared through the sky, he was also able to freely fly in the sky.

The burly lightning god was laughing heartily.

「Now that I have learned such spectacular move exist, there is no option of not imitating it! Betting on my name as Odin's son, the giant slayer, the one who made the wives of the giants cry, the thundering one, there is no way this Thor will lose!」

「No, it's not like I'm competing against—」

「It's the path of the warrior to compete with each other! You will hand over your turn to me now!」

Thor ran his mouth saying his suspicious true feeling and lifted the hammer in his right hand high to the sky.

「O my iron hammer Mjolnir, share the blessing of lightning to the land!」

That was the words of power of lightning.

The blue and clear sky was suddenly filled with lightning cloud.

This area—the whole area that was invaded by the giants was covered by the large cloud. The source of thick thunder simultaneously rained down countless light toward dozens of places on the ground surface.

GOoooNN! GOoooNN! GOoooNN!

* GOoooooNN! GOoooooNN! GOoooooNN!*

Several hundred, thousand of lightning were falling toward a really wide area.

However, Riona witnessed it from the sky.

Thor's lightning attack in a glance looked like it was indiscriminately and carelessly fired. But all of them only targeted the giants that she failed to defeat.

Furthermore, the fierce lightning attack burned to ash all of them to ash without fail this time.

The lightning god's great feat could be observed exactly because she possessed the super sight of the sacred bird that could observe everything to far away and not just the nearby. Riona=Yatagarasu was feeling greatly impressed.

「As expected from the lightning god-sama who is unrivaled under the heaven.....it's outrageous.」

「No, no. I'm able to do this because you taught me the location of the giants. I can say that half of this achievement, no a third.....aaa, a tenth of it belong to you girl.」

It seemed that the lightning god Thor wasn't good at being humble.

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After that—.

Ren and group headed toward the nearest city.

Their traveling method was using a 『tank』. Of course it didn't refer to modern weaponry like Tiger, M1 Abram, or Type 90, but a chariot that was pulled by horse. It was the mobile weapon they got familiar with at Sanctuary Troia. (TN: In Japan the kanji for tank and chariot is the same)

The one driving it was the lightning god Thor.

And then surprisingly it wasn't being pulled by a horse, but by two goats.

「A goat can be this fast!?!」

「That two goats are magical animal! Besides in the cultural sphere of Indo-European languages, goat is a sacred animal that has deep relation with lightning god!」

Ren and Riona who were allowed to get a ride at the back yelled at each other with a loud voice.

The dash of the goat chariot was just that fast. Because of the fierce shaking, the comfort of the ride was the worst. It was a pain even just to talk.

The two of them were desperately clinging on the chariot so they wouldn't get thrown off.

However, this was also a work of magic. Despite the heavy shaking, Ren and Riona didn't feel like they would get thrown off from the chariot. The safety level of the riders was unexpectedly high—.

By the way at the driver seat,

「Thor, this is really wonderful, please get faster!」

「Uwahahaha! You better hold on tight!」

The mini goddess's instigation made Thor whose shoulder was sat on by her laughed loudly.

Rattle rattle rattle! Rattle rattle rattle! The chariot's wheels were rotating in super high speed. The thundering sound was just like thunderclap.

Ren experienced the goat chariot's speed while recalling back.

「Come to think of it, I also heard the same sound at Troia.....」

The hero Achilles, the war god Ares. The chariots they rode were also making sound that was similar with thunderclap when running. Could it be,

「Is the chariot of the gods has some relation with lightning or something!?!」

「That's a good question to come from Rokuhara-san! Iron sword and chariot are symbols that are greatly related with lightning! I'll explain it to you if there is a chance!」

Riona also spoke loudly without getting daunted by the running sound that was like thunderclap.

Anyway, like this they was able to arrive at the nearest city in just several minutes. The goat chariot finally slowed down and entered the city.

Then the people cheered 'WAAH' and rushed toward the chariot and muscular lightning god.

「Thor-sama! Thor-sama!」

「It was your great personage who saved our city wasn't it!?!」

「I won't forget the fierceness of the lightning I saw just now for my whole life!」

「Thor!」 「Thor!」 「Thor!」 「Thor!」 「Thor!」 「Thor!」

「Uwahahaha. Everybody is a bit too exaggerating.」

「That's not true at all Thor! You're really the best without doubt!」

「Stella, don't you say such embarrassing thing too, hahahaha」

A circle of acclamation was formed beside the lightning god who got down from the chariot.

It was truly a warm welcome. Because the ultimate lightning attack that was rained down in this area before this, everyone become convinced that it was the reinforcement from lightning god Thor.

「It completely become the achievement of Thor alone.」

Riona stared at the crowd from afar and shrugged.

It was a bit childish how she looked slightly vexed. But, she seemed to immediately pull herself together and muttered with a nonchalant air.

「Well, there is no need for me to stand out anyway, let's consider this as a good thing.」

「Hahahaha. I'll praise you in their place then. As expected from Riona, you're—eh? Those people, could it be they're valkyrie?」

Ren blinked and stared at a direction of the sky.

Nearly ten maidens were approaching by riding horses that were flying in the sky even though they had no wings.

Even though the horses should be stepping on air, the sound of hooves *clap* *clap* *clap* *clap* was loudly approaching here in a straight line—.

They were certainly the war maidens. They were really similar with the character that often appeared in fantasy game.

「You can call them valkyrie or walkure, but calling them with valkyria or valkyrja might be “more authentic” sounding.」

「I see.....wait, eh?」

Ren who was lending his ear to Riona's explanation opened his eyes wide.

The group of war maiden valkyrie who was wearing feathered helmet and armor, and armed with short spear and other weapons. They were slowly descending to the ground surface. Among them—

He found a face that looked really similar with an acquaintance.

「That face is like.....isn't she strangely look really similar with someone?」

「What's the matter Rokuhara-san?」

「No, you see, there is someone who has really familiar face there.」

「Ren-sama, Riona-sama! It's really great that I can meet you two!」

「「Heh?」」

Ren and Riona simultaneously let out a stupid sounding voice.

A silver haired beautiful girl came in front of the two of them. Her ears were slightly pointy. She met them every day at Sanctuary Troia where they were living at several days ago.

Princess Cassandra. The prophet of tragedy.

A girl who looked exactly the same with that princess was wearing valkyrie outfit smilingly.

Chapter 3 – The Shadow of the Wolves

1

「Cassandra! Why are you at this kind of place!?!」

「Actually before our parting, I learned that Ren-sama will depart to a new journey so.....I went ahead to here!」

「Eeh!?!」

Cassandra revealed the surprising trick of her being here. She smiled broadly.

「Fortunately, there is this kind of tool in the palace's treasury.」

The royal family of Troia had amassed vast fortune.

The item that the princess revealed was a green feather. The feather looked like it was plucked from a bird the size of chicken—Cassandra said this.

「Hermes who created and gave this item is the protector god of traveler, thief, and magician. By praying to this feather, it will be possible to fly to the country that the user imagined in their mind once a month!」

「So it's an everywhere door, limited function edition.....」

Riona praised with a deep feeling.

「If Princess Cassandra who possess the spiritual power of foresight use it, she will be able to easily move to the mythological world that Rokuhara-san should be going to next. As expected from the famous Troia's royal family that is wealthy even in Greek mythology, they were keeping an outrageous treasure.」

「But, why do you purposefully come to Midgard?」

「The opponent that Ren-sama and Riona-sama are chasing to this land is the godslaying wolf. Even just from the glimpses that I saw in my foresight—his mightiness is just too tremendous. That’s why, thinking of what can I do in order to repay the favor to the two of you who saved our Troia, I immediately departed to this place!」

「 「……………」 」

Ren and Riona looked at each other’s face.

It seemed she had foresighted until their confrontation against the godslayer who introduced himself as marquis. As expected Cassandra’s spiritual power was tremendous. Ren smiled at the guide of his journey.

「If that’s the case, isn’t it fine to have her to help us out?」

「Well, if she can only travel to another world once per month, it seems to be difficult even if we ask her to return right away……. But」

Riona stared at Cassandra’s outfit and said.

「Princess. What’s with that outfit?」

「It’s good that you ask! I received it from the valkyries whom I got acquainted with just now. They were concerned with my garment that was a bit too thin for this weather.」

The war maidens that numbered around ten.

They had matching appearance of feathered helmet, armor, and a mantel.

Cassandra who was dressed like them twirled on the spot happily to show her appearance. Unlike the valkyries who were carrying a spear, the princess of Troia was carrying a long bow and a quiver.

Speaking of it, Cassandra was an expert of bow.

「Oo. Princess of foreign country, it seems that you’re able to safely meet with the people you sought.」

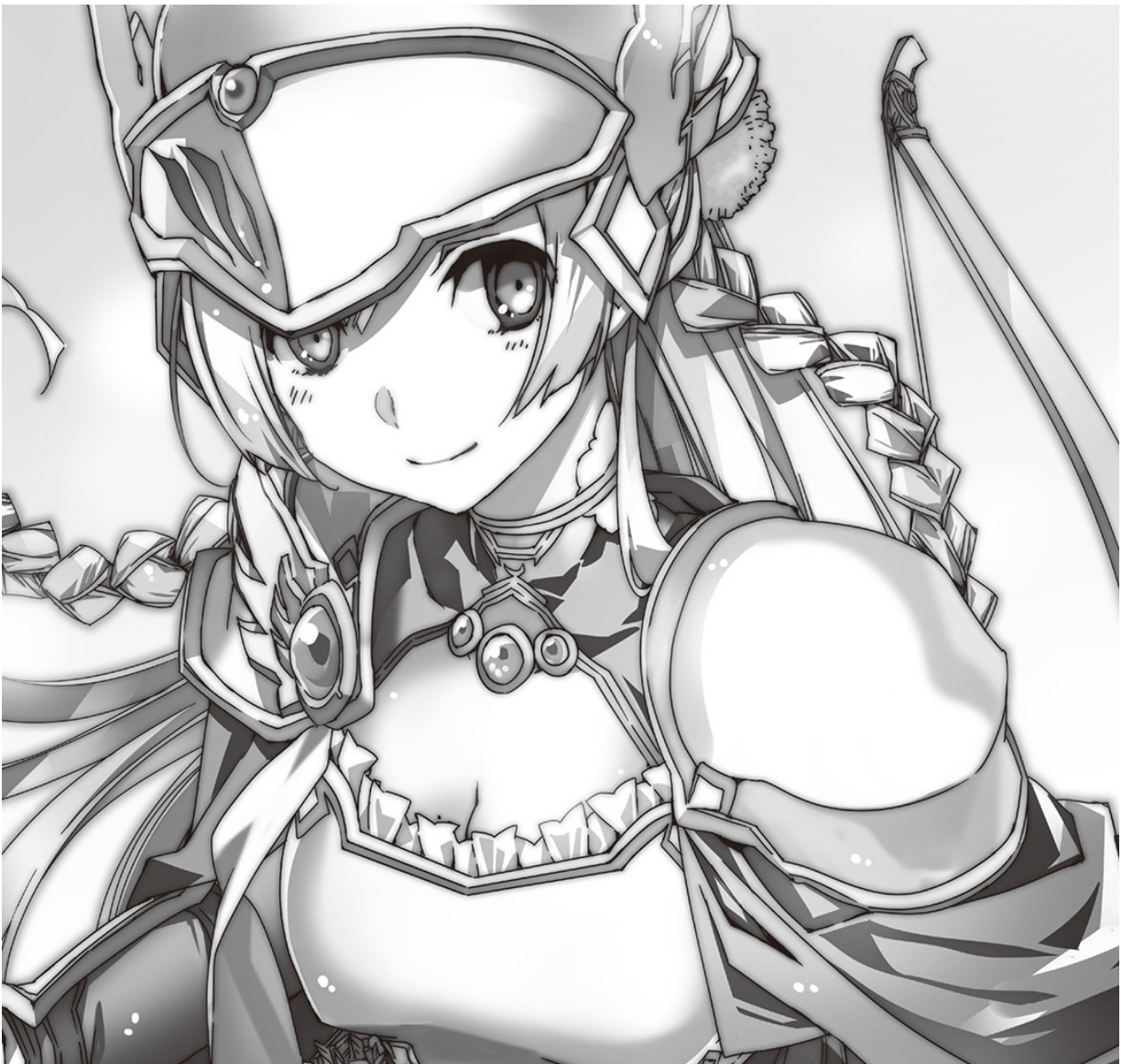
One valkyrie talked.

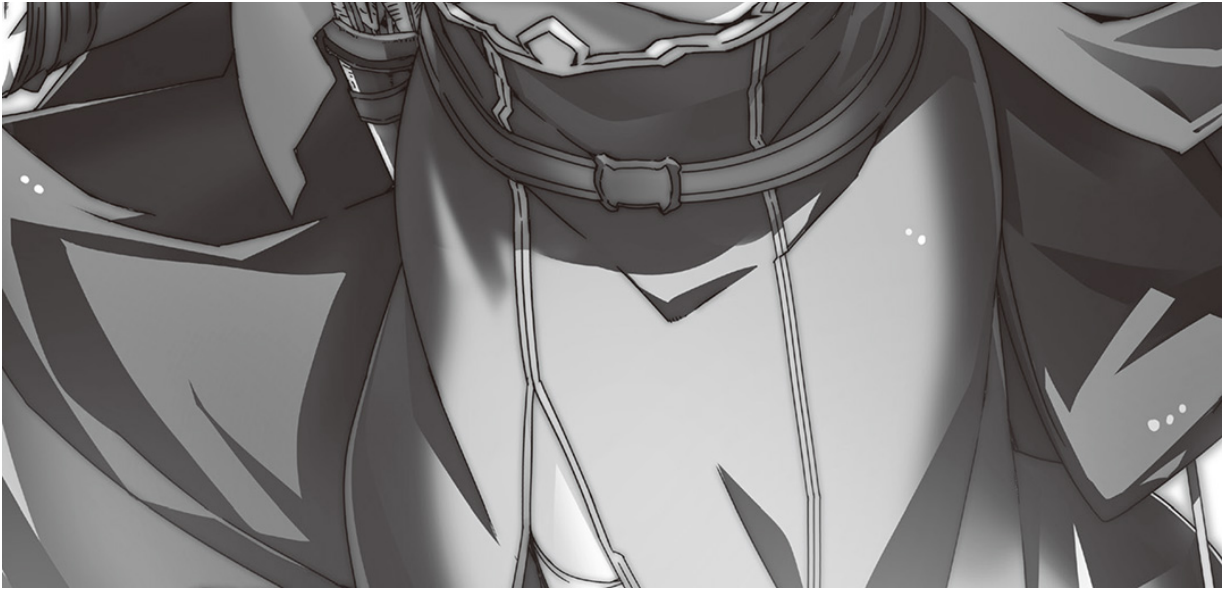
「How great. Then, let us part from each other here. We have to return to our work.」

「Thank you very much, everyone!」

「Ah. Can I ask something? If it's possible, can everyone remain here to protect Midgard?」

Ren smoothly interrupted the cheerful parting of the valkyries and Troia's princess.





Riona immediately matched him and smiled at the Norse's celestial maidens.

「Also, if possible can everyone also inform the attack of the giants to the other gods other than Thor-sama? If we can ask them to strengthen the defense here.....」

The request came from people of the surface world with strange appearance.

But that was not the reason why the valkyries who were a gathering of peerless beauty shook their head easily.

「I'm sorry, but we can't do that.」

「Brave warriors are dying here and there just now. We have to quickly go to welcome their soul.」

「If the giants are wandering around for a bit more, the number of people who died in battle should increase further.」

「How wonderful-! Valhalla will become even more lively!」

「The brave warriors who died will someday fight for father Odin's sake when the 《time of the end》 arrive. Selecting who is worthy from those who died in battle as many as possible and welcome them into the manor of Valhalla—. That is the duty of us Valkyrie. We cannot postpone it no matter how slight.」

「Then Princess Cassandra and both of you foreigners, adieu!」

The war maidens spoke one after another and then they mounted their flying horse.

They just flew away readily like that. The flying horse that Cassandra was using also followed the valkyries.

Ren grumbled.

「If they're like that, it'll be no good even if we use Stella's power.」

「It's valkyrie's job to gather the heroes who died in battlefield, so right now must be the “peak season” for them.....」

「They're like death god if hearing only that.」

「That's pretty close to the mark. In the first place the world of Norse mythology is a 『country of carnage』 after all.」

Riona suddenly raised the tone of her voice.

「The men are a gathering of strong, burly, and rowdy people! The women are beautiful and graceful, and on top of that they're also strong as expected! Because they were born as man they absolutely want to become berserker! Those who treasure their life and act cowardly in battlefield has no qualification to live tomorrow!Well, that's their world view.」

「My! So that is the national character of this place!?!」

「Yes. The Greek people who threatened Troia were also really rough-mannered but, the Norse mythology might be surpassing even them.」

Riona nodded at Cassandra who was dumbfounded.

「Anyway right now the priority is to repair the crumbling spots of Midgard's wall in great haste. Also, we have to determine the cause of the wall's damage as fast as possible——」

「I know if it's about that.」

「Eh?」

This time it was Riona who was dumbfounded. Cassandra solemnly talked.

「I saw it from the power that the radiant Apollo bestowed me. Two giant wolves are fiercely fighting. The great wall is getting destroyed here and there during it—that's the sight that I saw. One of the wolves is the godslayer, a demon king who has usurped god's authority like Ren-sama.....」

「So you even know that marquis is a werewolf.....」

「Cassandra is really amazing. You've learned so much like that.」

Riona and Ren was similarly made to ooh and aah in admiration to her precognition ability.

Originally, people would be distrusting when Princess Cassandra talked about the future.

That was the curse of sun god Apollo. However this time it was something that “had already happened”. Ren and Riona were easily being greatly impressed by the prophet's oracle.

「And then princess, what is the other wolf?」

「A son of a giant, the demon wolf who will swallow star, moon, and even the sun. This beast should be released when the twilight of the gods begin.....」

「You mean the ultimate weapon of Norse mythology, Fenrir!」

Riona yelled in astonishment.

.

「I believe that the wolves might be still fighting even now. Search for their whereabouts.」

White heron shikigamis flew away.

Ren said 「Right, here」 to Riona who gave the order to the shikigamis and held out a cloak.

The thick cloak had a hood attached for when going outside. Ren was already wearing the same thing. It was lined with animal fur, so it felt really warm.

「Just what is this for?」

「I looked at Cassandra and thought that we will also need this. I asked the people in this city to share some with us. They handed this happily because we are “Thor-sama’s comrade”. I also got some more things like meal for the time being.」

「Rokuhara-san is a smooth talker like usual.」

Thus—

Ren and co headed toward the wall that separated Midgard with the outside country.

The boundary line that separated the dwelling of human and giant. It was a defensive fence made from thick and tall pillars clustered together to form a wall. They were at one of the several destroyed spots.

His traveling company was Riona, Stella, Cassandra, and then—

「Now then. How are we going to fix this?」

The driver who brought the goat chariot and brought Ren's group until here said.

The lightning god Thor frowned.

「As expected even me has no experience of building a mansion or a castle wall or the like.」

「It's fine. I have an idea.」

Riona walked forward and chanted a spell.

「Suzaku, Genbu, Byakko, Koujin, Nanto, Hokuto, Sandai, Gyokujo, Seiryuu.....」

Right after that, Thor ooh-ed in admiration.

Amazingly the crumbling wall was automatically starting to be repaired.

The countless pieces falling on the ground were floating. They converged in the air, fastened to each other, becoming a thick and tall stone pillar—

It pierced the ground *ZUN!* as though to fill the damaged spot in the great wall.

And then the mysterious repair was repeated many times.

Riona puffed up her chest that was leaning to the small side and spoke proudly.

「This too is a skill of onmyouji. My shikigamis 《the twelve divine generals》 can do anything if it's manual labor or public works. Whether it's house construction, or repairmen, or road construction, or even building river's bank.」

「So it's Riona's servants that you also called at Troia before. They're really convenient!」

Ren recalled.

The curse of Goddess Athena turned the whole Greece army and Troia city into stone. After the decisive battle, it was the twelve divine generals who carried Greece soldiers who became stone statue.

They were Toba Riona's invisible underlings.

When Ren sharpened his senses, certainly he could sense them. A bunch of spirit body were restlessly moving around using telekinesis or invisible limbs to strenuously repair the wall.

「In game or the like the shikigamis are only getting ordered for battle and nothing else. Originally the work that a shikigami should be told to do the most is public works. This is the convention that originated from Abe no Seimei.」

「You're surprisingly capable, even though you're just a bird girl.....」

「As expected from Riona-sama! I'm feeling moved!」

Stella who looked somewhat envious at her associate's conspicuous service and Cassandra who was giving a honest praise.

Riona glanced at them before making a guess from the work pace of the twelve divine generals.

「Perhaps, the repair will finish in three hours at this rate. Let's fix the next hole when the repair of this place is finished.」

「Yosh, in that case」

The lightning god Thor slapped his bulky chest.

「I'll lend you all my chariot. Use it to run along the wall and plug all the bypaths. During that time I'll fly around to everywhere—and thoroughly slaughter all the giants that entered Midgard!」

It was an idea that was really like this warrior with simple thinking.

But with how simple it was, it was also a really effective division of roles.

Thor felt good because no one was objecting. He immediately jumped to the sky. But, Ren quickly said.

「Wait Thor-san. I have one more request other than borrowing the goats and chariot.」

「Yes. It's for the sake of me and this Rokuhara Ren.」

「It will be great if we can receive something useful. I'll be thankful if it's something that can protect Stella if possible.」

Ren matched his breathing with Stella who was on his shoulder and “begged”.

They judged that talking in a roundabout way would bring the opposite effect to the impulsive and straightforward lightning god-sama, so they bluntly requested. In the end the large hearted Thor easily nodded.

「Okay. Then, I will give you this.」

Here Thor used a supernatural power that was befitting a god and took out three items from empty air. He threw all of them *pon, pon, pon* on the driver seat of the chariot.

Then this time he floated lightly to the air without stopping—.

「All of them are useful things with this lightning god's stamp of approval. Then farewell!」

Lightning god Thor flew away to the faraway sky like that.

.

2

「I've said this too just now but, the world of Norse mythology is a world of carnage.」

Riona talked in front of the wall of Midgard that should be called as a great wall.

She watched over the repair work of her shikigamis twelve divine generals while giving lecture to Ren about this mythological world.

「In the first place the humans living in Sanctuary Midgard are fundamentally Viking—the ocean tribe of North Europe.」

「Viking.....they're famous as pirate right?」

Riona explained further to Ren who made a common association.

「Yes. If explained really roughly, Norse mythology is a myth legend that the Vikings passed on. But, they were people who excelled in voyage and trade, however they also did agriculture in the land, and they also fished. And, when it became 『It's faster to take away things by force rather than trade!』 from them originally sending out ships sometimes, they diligently worked in pirate business.」

「Their change of attitude is really quick huh.」

「That was just how daring and ferocious they were. Their ethics and sense of justice were also really different from us who live in 21st century..... And then in this Midgard, heart that won't be disheartened and fighting spirit that doesn't fear even death are the great justice!」

Riona declared powerfully.

「Just as Rokuhara-san has seen too, outside Midgard is a world that is full of enemy like the dangerous giants roaming around! In order to face the powerful enemies, if they're men then muster your bravery! Rather than surrendering to live a long life, die heroically in battlefield and heighten your fame in exchange of your life!」

Riona raised up her fist. Ren's eyes opened wide in front of her.

「Is it no good if they run away?」

「I cannot recommend that at all. In Norse mythology the 『warriors who died at the end of a heroic battle』 will be chosen to be the chief god Odin's warrior. They will be invited into the manor of Valhalla after death.」

Riona solemnly spoke.

「The dead warriors will be looked after by beautiful valkyries there. It will be a party where they can drink and sing to their heart's content. They will train their fighting skill every day and have practice match with each other over and over. At that time the heroes will taste joy from their heart while cutting down their training partner with their sword.」

「.....People who have died already will energetically fight and kill each other again?」

「Yes. When night comes the dead will be resurrected and they will join shoulders with the comrades who killed them in the practice while eating a mountain of meat and drink barrels of alcohol in a large party—. This activity will continue every day.」

「It's a world that make my stomach feel heavy just from listening to that.」

「Exactly.」

Ren and Riona who should be nonstandard as Japanese.

The two of them whose respective personality was developed to different direction unusually had the same opinion.

「These dead brave warriors are called Einherjar. Their mission is to fight as Odin's servants when the twilight of the gods—Ragnarok arrives.」

「I have heard that word too before, Ragnarok.」

「That's because the word is often used to mean the final war or the end of the world. In Norse mythology's Ragnarok, the all out war of the gods and the giants will happen. In the end this battle will envelope the whole world in flame and burn it to nothing.」

「Will everyone perish or something there just as expected?」

「It won't be a total annihilation but, only an extreme few will survive. And, the one who killed the greatest god and Norse's chief god Odin in Ragnarok will be—the demon wolf Fenrir.」

「It's the one Riona said just now!」

「Yes. The legend of 『flying wolf swallowing moon and sun』 is really popular in the cultural sphere of Norse mythology. The strongest class of this kind of monster is Fenrir.....it won't be an exaggeration to say that. And then」

Riona turned her gaze to Cassandra who focused on being a listener until now.

「A godslayer like Rokuhara-san is in the middle of facing the demon wolf Fenrir isn't it?」

「Yes. He himself also transformed into a wolf.」

「Why is Voban-san starting this kind of thing?」

「Perhaps it's like the scenario of an old fighting game 『I came to meet someone stronger than me』. That person look like a character who will do something like that without hesitation you know?」

「Aah, certainly.」

Ren was deeply agreeing with Riona's guess.

Actually he had somehow sensed it. Dwelling inside the young man who was his fellow “godslayer”—was a fighting spirit to a degree of insanity. It was something that should be called as illogical desire that wouldn't stop seeking deathly battle.

Riona calmly said her opinion to Ren who was thinking that.

「For now, let's keep repairing the wall while searching for his whereabouts.」

「You're right. —That's right Stella. What kind of items Thor-san gave us before this?」

「If you ask whether they will be useful then it feels like it but.....」

Stella frowned slightly.

It seemed she felt somewhat dissatisfied as a goddess who had been offered a great number of tribute. She displayed the 『lightning god stamped presents』 on the ground toward Ren.

「The picture drawn on this thing that is like ”playing card made from wood”.....is it a person?」

There was 『humanoid symbol drawn from lines』 on the wooden card that Ren was staring at. Most likely it was an unsophisticated illustration drawn with ancient drawing technique.

But it was impossible to decide what was its model with the sense of modern Japanese people.

However, Stella easily said.

「How stupid Ren. It's the drawing lightning god Thor's portrait.」

「Eh!? You understand it Stella!?」

「I ask you to not look down on the goddess of love. Because thanks to receiving so many tributes since the past, I became able to somehow understand the origin of item.」

Stella talked about the three points of the presents from the heroic lightning god like below.

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Thor's portrait: A wooden card that has the drawing of the thunder god's likeness figure, maximum grace of god to the holder!

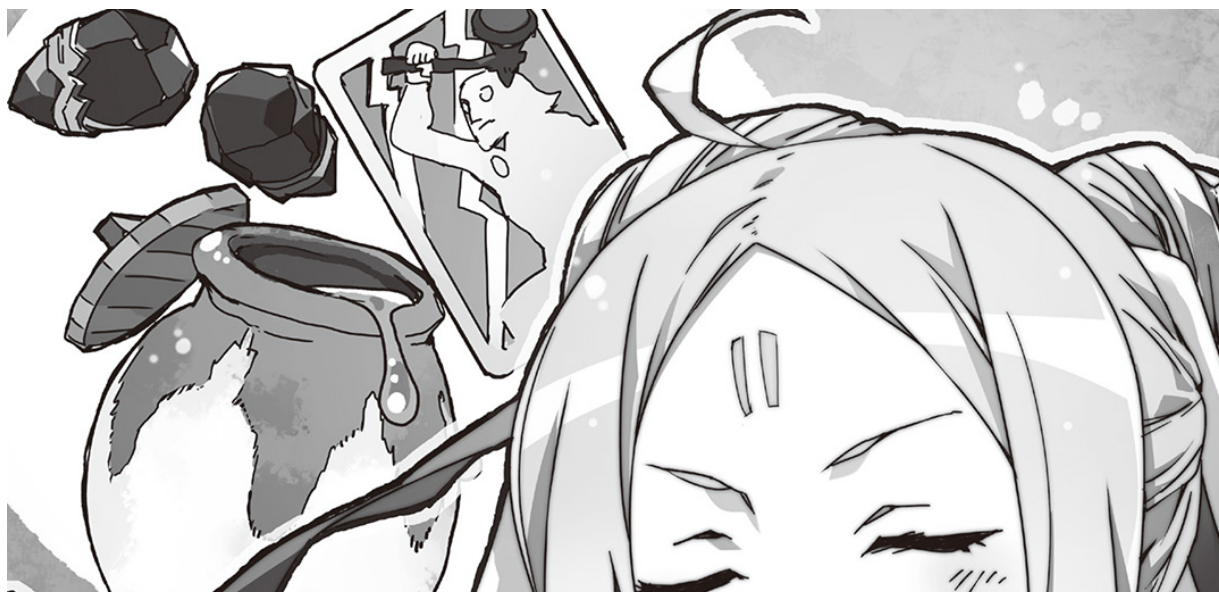
Lightning flint: You can lid fire at a place that had no fire. Super convenient!

Honey wine of passion: After drinking it your stamina will be matchless and your passion erupted. A choice alcohol with medicine effect that is endorsed by the lightning god!

.

「This is, Thor-san's portrait.....」

「I wonder what kind of grace it will give other than being a helper to remember him.....?」





「Perhaps, there are dozens of card type with different picture you know? Maybe it's a special trading card – mythological world edition that you can exchange with your friend or something.」

While the two Japanese and a goddess were commenting about the “picture card”, blue sparks scattered at the side.

「My!?! This is like a small lightning!」

Cassandra knocked together the “flint set” of two black stones.

If the spark was showered to kindling, it would surely catch fire. However, Riona took out an oil lighter and ignited it.

「If it's only igniting fire then it might be faster to use this.」

「And inside this jar is alcohol? Certainly it gives off smell like honey.」

A small jar that fit snugly on human's palm with wax covering its opening.

Ren tried sniffing it from outside. When he shook it, the jar would make *chapo chapo* sound.

—The presents from Thor were the three above.

For the time being Cassandra held the picture card, Ren held the flints, and Riona carried the honey alcohol.

However, the greatest farewell gift from lightning god Thor was the goat chariot. The two goats seemed to have been told by their previous master to follow the instruction of Ren and co. They listened to any order obediently.

Their running speed was around 400 until 500 kilometer per hour. But not only that.

The goats didn't show any sign of fatigue. They could run for long distance continuously.

Thanks to that Ren and co could travel extremely swiftly.

.

The 『wall along the boundary line』 that separated Midgard and the territory outside.

There were a total of 15 spots that got destroyed. Marquis Voban and Fenrir seemed to be getting farther from around the wall because the number of the broken spot didn't increase further.

And then, Riona was repairing the destroyed spots using her shikigamis twelve divine generals, but——

Surprisingly she was fixing the damage with the pace of four or five spots per day.

What made it possible was the goat chariot.

When Riona finished the repair of a spot, she along with Ren, Cassandra, and Stella who were accompanying her would jump on the goat chariot and they would be able to arrive at the next place where the wall was destroyed in just several dozen minutes. Thanks to that Riona was able to advance the repair in an absurd pace.

However, at night the air would become freezing cold.

「Despite being a source of inspiration for RPG, there is no inn at all here isn't it?」

「The monetary economy is developing here you know? Besides, this time we are also touring the edge of Midgard. So to speak this is a remote countryside along the national border. In this region it will be easier to negotiate using bartering rather than paying money, so something like hotel business or the like is simple.....hard to come by.」

And so, when it came for inn searching at night.

When the sun came down, they searched for house and negotiated with the residence if they could stay the night there.

.....And then, most of the time it would become like this.

Rattle rattle rattle! The goat chariot was noisily approaching a human house.

There was no problem of overcrowding population in Midgard. There was a lot of houses that were built in a solitary fashion. Most of the houses were wooden house that looked like a hut or row house in the sense of modern Japanese.

Today too they were paying a visit to a certain dilapidated shack in the evening.

「Thor-sama!?!」

「Is it Thor-sama!?!」

「That great person is visiting!?!」

People rushed out hearing the chariot's sound that was like thunder.

A family of five was living in a dilapidated house at wilderness. The family consisted of the father and mother who were at their early thirty, a boy and a girl, and a baby who was being held by the mother.

Although they were disappointed of the absence of the lightning god who was seen like a superhero here,

「It's amazing daddy! They're Thor-sama's envoy!」

「If you like you can stay in our house as long as you like! Tonight it will be a feast!」

The whole family welcomed them like that.

At the morning, Ren's group would leave behind some food and alcohol as modest thanks and drove away on the chariot.....

They repeated that kind of lodging process every day.

But, the houses where they were staying were also not really spacious. Putting aside Stella, it was desirable to secure one room each for Ren, Riona, and Cassandra, But,

When it seemed that it would be impossible for that, Ren made a suggestion.

Riona was the same type of person like Julio, someone who was fussy about little things. Therefore she would feel it hard to bear when there was

other person with her in her bedroom. Rather it was Cassandra instead who was easygoing and flexible regarding such arrangement despite being raised as royalty.

In that case——

「Then, tonight I and Cassandra will stay in the same room.」

「Really!? I remember when I slept together with Onii-sama or Onee-sama when I was a child. It was really fun. My heart is beating really fast!」

「Of course I'll sleep on the floor. You can use the bed.」

「I can't do that. Ren-sama should pay attention to your health rather than mine. Ah, in that case, how about the two of us using the same bed?」

At that time Cassandra was smiling brightly.

「I and Ren-sama are already like brother and sister after all.」

「Ah, I see. Now that you mention it, certainly it might be better like that.」

Ren deeply nodded.

「Let's do it if you don't mind that. It's fine, I'm not going to do anything strange so don't worry. When I'm feeling like it I'll just need to find a lady or auntie who will invite me for “adult socialization”.」

「Eh? There is a separation between adult and children in socialization?」

「Yeah there is. I'll be twenty years old soon but, if the other party is older by quite a lot, it might make it easier to invite her for “that kind of socialization”.」

「Is that true!? Actually I'll be 150 years old soon!」

Cassandra made a shocking confession and then asked.

「That means, I too can do this “adult socialization” with Ren-sama!?!」

「Please wait. This problem will be wholly resolved if I simply stay in the same room with Princess Cassandra isn't it? Rokuhara-san too, please don't direct the talk to a strange direction.」

Riona couldn't bear to hear their talk and interrupted them.

「You aren't going to tell me that you are harboring a bad desire toward the princess aren't you?」

「That's misunderstanding. Rather it's the opposite. Actually I was told by Julio before.」

Ren smilingly objected.

「He told me to get closer to Riona during this journey and further the talk of the political marriage.」

「Haa!?!」

The journey of Ren and co was smoothly progressing even while that kind of interlude was going on in between——

After four days. Riona finally finished fixing all the 『broken spots of the wall that needed fixing』 .

.

3

The fourth night since they came to Sanctuary Midgard.

At the evening of this day, Riona's shikigamis safely finished repairing 『the last bypath』 and succeeded in blocking all the invasion route of the giants.

「The plain repair work is over with this!」

Thor's goat chariot heard Riona's voice and dashed.

They left the wall that separated Midgard with the “outside country” and headed to an inn town that was moderately bustling. It was because of Stella's loud complaint.

「Ren! I don't mind even if it's a messy place that is bustling with humans, I want to spend a night at a place that is like a town soon! I'm already fed up with dwelling like a shabby hut far away from human settlement that has forest draft noisily running through it or cramped room of a farmhouse with stinky cow!」

The goddess of beauty and love yelled from her soul.

And so they visited an inn town of Norse mythology world.

Well, for Ren who knew about the metropolis in 21st century earth this place's activity was simply like 『a spot with around ten unpopular traditional inn, hotel, and snack bar intended for the local's gathering place or tourist that sometimes could be seen at countryside's declining sightseeing area』 .

So far there were at least three or four stores that felt like inn doubling as bar here.

After that there were a large wooden building that appeared to be an assembly hall, a public square, several shops, private houses, etc.

By the way there wasn't the regular weapon shop & armor shop like in RPG world. In exchange they happened to find blacksmith workshop at the outskirts of the town.

It was a meager city like this.

However, Stella was a bit relieved.

「Even this kind of small city is completely better compared to the hovel in the wilderness we had been staying at until now! Of course, I really can't say that it's a place that is worthy for a goddess of beauty!」

Her eyes were sparkling happily despite her complaint.

They reserved three rooms at an inn that looked adequate and everyone gathered in one of the rooms. Ren sat down on a bed that was a bit damp and made an easygoing smile.

「Staying at that kind of place is an experience that is really hard to come by, so I had a lot of fun though. Besides most of the time Stella wasn't showing out yourself right?」

「It's a problem of feeling! Ren, be more considerate to me!」

「Hahaha. Roger.」

「In the first place when it come to you Ren, you aren't caring at all even if there is mouse running around inside the room, o, or that repulsive fatty bug is crawling around, so you won't even understand!」

「But fortunately Midgard is a cold world.」

Riona smoothly said.

「Despite being more humid than Troia or Greece, there doesn't seem to be any cockroach here. The forest is also near so I've resolved myself even if I encounter them.」

「I, I ask you to not say their name clearly, bird girl!」

「Ah. You mean the black and oily looking bug that can be found at the castle's corner and outside isn't it!」

On the other hand Cassandra was smiling cheerfully.

「In a different country the insects that are living there is also completely different, so it's interesting!」

It was the goddess who was more fussy compared to a high school girl of modern Japan or a princess who was raised as royalty.

Ren thought that the contrast was really interesting. Well, there was also how Riona and Cassandra were girls who were really out of the norm though—.

By the way, this place wasn't an inn that did the cleaning scrupulously by all means.

There were dirt here and there, the room was humid, and there was also a bit of sour smell. From feminine perspective, it really wasn't a comfortable place.

However this was the first time they were staying in an inn of this world.

The three other than Stella who vanished moved to the restaurant that was inside the same building.

Several guests were eating and drinking. The inns around here all doubled as bar. There were also guests who seemed to be passing by locals.

「All the houses in this Midgard country are made from wood.」

「Unlike Troia that is located in an arid region, this area has an abundance of forest resources. Well, but, there should also be house that was made from peat hardened into brick here.」

Riona taught Cassandra who looked around inside the restaurant.

This inn was in log house style. It was a wooden house that was made from logs.

Perhaps because the forest resources were abundant, they still hadn't found a house that was build using brick in this Sanctuary Midgard.

And then, various meals were lined up on the table.

A stew with a lot of pork boiled in a large pot, herb and fruit as garnish, cheese made from cow or goat milk, barley porridge. And then, “salted salmon” that was simply grilled which was nostalgic for Japanese people in a sense.

The drink was water and milk and mead.

It seemed that wine was valuable and this inn didn't have it. Also, they had a lot of strong beer that was really sour, but it didn't really match the taste of Japanese people or Troia princess. That was made clear from their stay in Midgard until now.

「As expected when compared to Troia that is “the standard of metropolis of ancient times” this is...」

Riona muttered in front of an apple that was served whole.

It seemed she was reluctant to bite into it as it was. She used her own knife to cut it into half on the table.

「Midgard's meal is simple, or rather it's rough.」

「But, all of them are delicious. I'm feeling really happy.」

「Certainly, no matter where we're eating, the vegetable and meat has good taste. They're fresh.」

「As expected it's because the farm and ranch are close. Local production for local consumption is the standard here.」

The Troia princess and two Japanese people displayed their appetite while conversing.

Riona who was eating quite a lot despite being the slimmest saw 『Thor's picture card』 at the edge of the table that was a present from lightning god Thor. She spoke in satisfaction.

「Well, let's just ignore the details. In the end they're free anyway.」

Actually they had an agreement that the meal and lodging expense here was free.

Ren and co arrived by riding on goat chariot that they borrowed from lightning god Thor. The people of the town were in the mood of great welcoming like usual.

「Thor is really popular everywhere.」

「Yes. He is really idolized by the people, how admirable.」

Ren was being impressed while drinking mead that was mixed with water. Cassandra was also in admiration.

Then the onmyoudou specialist Riona explained to them.

「In the first place he is a god who brought wind and rain together with lightning, causing good harvest to the land. Just that factor alone is already exceptional to gather popularity from the populace, but above all else it's because he is the protector god of Midgard.」

「Protector god?」

「Yes. If the giants attack then he will take the initiative to exterminate them. At times he will personally march into the giant's territory and eradicate them. He is the hero of this world.」

「Hee!」

「Even now he is busy defeating the giants entering Midgard. But, we've fixed the invasion entrance for the time being.」

When the three of them finished eating, Riona changed the topic.

「We should start chasing after the whereabouts of the wolf marquis and Fenrir in earnest soon.」

「They aren't near the wall anymore just as expected?」

「Of course they are. I believe that most likely they are getting away from Midgard.」

「They're in the country of giant outside the wall?」

「It will be good if that's the case but..... The giant country Jotunheim is in adjoining land with Midgard, so it will be still easy to search them there. But, if they move to place like Asgard, Vanaheim, or Helheim, it will become a bit troublesome.」

「Those location names, they sound like incantation or tongue twister.」

「They aren't in adjoining land with Midgard—in other words, they are across the sea?」

Ren was nonplussed by the enumeration of the place names, while Cassandra was asking curiously.

Riona drew an illustration of 『tree』 using a sign pen on the memo book that she brought from Japan.

「Actually the world of Norse mythology is located on a large tree called Yggdrasil. That's why this super dreadnought class large tree is called the

『world tree』 .」

「The whole world is placed on top of a tree!？」

「Yes. The human world Midgard is placed on the branch around the middle. The branch at higher place is the world where the gods and fairies are living. At the lower branch is the underground world of the dwarf, the world of flame, the world of ice, hell, and so on—that is the world view here.」

「My! That's the first time I hear that kind of story!」

Princess Cassandra's eyes sparkled. Riona shrugged.

「It's like that, so the search range will be really wide. Actually I'm already sending shikigami to outside Midgard but—there is still no good report coming back.」

「I see.」

「Perhaps we should gather information of the world of god with Thor's intermediation.」

Riona frowned with a complicated expression.

Cassandra was muttering 「A world with various countries placed on a really large tree.....」 and thought of something in her own world.

It seemed there were still a lot of troubles at their journey ahead. It caused Ren to want to sigh too.

.

In the end, they returned to their own room after dinner and took an early rest.

「There isn't really anything worthy of note here even if they call this a busy street.」

Riona muttered while she was alone.

.....Well, if she searched the back alley, in this atmosphere she felt like she would find “shady place” like small gambling den or whorehouse. She had a feeling of wanting to search in curiosity.

But, it would be a bad influence to Princess Cassandra’s education of aesthetic sensibility, and above all else there was something she ought to do.

The bed sheet mustn’t been dried out for a long time. It was strangely damp. On that bed,

Riona sat and crossed her legs in a lotus position.

She was still wearing her skirt and uniform. Her bare legs were exposed. But, there wasn’t anyone watching so Riona didn’t care about it.

「Divine spirit of wood, fire, earth, metal, water. Bless the spirit of strictness.....」

She closed her eyes and meditated——.

The shikigamis that she sent out to a journey of searching the disappearing wolves.

Actually, several of them were returning to Riona. They brought back information that while few, could possibly become clue.

She played back what her familiars “saw” within her mind and inspected them.

She meditated for that. It was easier than psychic photography when it wasn’t showed to other people.

「This is.....space?」

Countless stars everywhere in a pitch black space.

Such image floated behind her closed eyelids.

She was also able to find moon, sun, Mars, Venus, and so on. If the stars outside the solar system looked like 『dot』, while the size of astronomical objects at the neighborhood of earth looked around the size of soccer ball.

However.

Ahead of the illumination of the sun wasn't the blue earth, but the world tree Yggdrasil.

It was a large tree with splendid shape and branches, in addition it was an ash tree. But, Riona's impression to it was only 『a splendid bonsai』 in regard to size.

「This is like watching image from man-made satellite in television.」

Riona noticed right after she muttered.

A black wolf was soaring like a comet. It was following the track of moon and sun that were orbiting around Yggdrasil.

And then, as though chasing after the wolf's tail—was a grey wolf flying behind it!

Riona's intuition told her. The grey wolf was Marquis Voban. Because the fierily sparkling eyes of the grey wolf had vivid emerald green color.

They were the same eyes like the godslaying marquis they encountered at Spain, and also the same killing intent.

「That means, the black one is Fenrir.....」

The black wolf that was ahead, and the pursuing grey wolf.

In contrast to Fenrir that was desperately escaping, Marquis Voban looked slightly more composed. The distance between the two was quite far, but “the pursuer” was giving an air of being able to close the distance anytime..... Riona realized.

「He is, hunting?」

It was a method that smart carnivore sometimes did. They wouldn't attack immediately.

They were pursuing their prey with some distance between them, keeping their gaze on their prey no matter where they were escaping to, and put pressure on them while showing glimpses of their own appearance. They waited until the prey got tired and careless.

Then, they would suddenly attack and finish off their prey with certainty—.

「Even so they are flying around everywhere.....」

The escaping Fenrir was moving from Yggdrasil's branch to branch.

Scorching heat flame was burning on a one branch. That must be the world of flame Muspelheim. Another branch had fierce blizzard blowing on it. There was no doubt it was the world of ice Nibelheim.

The upper branch that was shining bright seemed to be the first world Asgard—.

And then Fenrir was jumping around from branch to branch continuously. He went around all over the worlds to shake off the pursuer with utmost effort.

But, the godslaying grey wolf wouldn't take off his sight from him no matter what.....

—By the way, there was an ocean and a continent on a conspicuously large branch right at the middle. It was the continent where human world Midgard and giant country Jotunheim were located. Around this continent there should be a terrifyingly large and long 『snake』 twining around it.....

Riona contemplated while sighing.

「They aren't staying in one place, so even the shikigamis are unable to determine the location.」

In addition, she also had another misgiving.

If Fenrir was able to shake off Marquis Voban's pursuit, what would he do then?

Conversely, what if the marquis was able to defeat Fenrir like this? By killing the wolf of Norse mythology, the possibility of him collecting double 『authority of wolf』 was also.....

「After all the demon wolf Fenrir is an existence of the same rank with the gods.」

Right after Riona thought about the threat of these monsters, she muttered 「Eh?」 .

Just now, “something” squirmed at the bottom of her heart.

「This is the power of that time.....!」

Riona opened both her eyes that she closed.

There was no mistake. It was the power when she defeated the wolf head right before coming to Midgard. And then most likely this was something that originated from the godslaying “goshujin-sama”.

If not, there was no way this kind of feeling would well up.

「If it's the me right now.....with this strength even facing against a god is——」

Possible. Without a doubt.

When she noticed her body was already getting enveloped in bluish white flame.

But, the bed that she was sitting on with lotus position was completely—alright.

This flame was a supernatural flame after all. As long as Riona didn't harbor a will of destruction, it wouldn't do anything ill-mannered like pointlessly burning something.

The source of the power was her abdomen, so to speak the pit of her stomach.

It was the most important point in human body regarding sorcery and qigong. Magical power and qi were produced from there.

And then, the instant she was going to further ascertain in detail about this power's origin—

「Rokuhara-san!？」

Her vision changed completely and she saw a glimpse of that young man's "past".

.

4

At the time when Rokuhara Ren was still 18 years old.

An ordinary high school student that could be found anywhere, wasn't how he seemed to be.

He lived in low-lying area of Tokyo without anyone who he could call as relative. His parents died in an accident when he was a young child. The grandmother who raised him also passed away a year ago.

But, young man Rokuhara was excessively overflowing with vitality.

He was somehow getting by using the saving and insurance money that he inherited. He also made use of his sport scholarship that exempted him from paying the tuition of the prestigious private high school he attended to finish his high school life that was relatively carefree.

Although, he had no extra leeway for his living. Naturally he was also doing part-time work.

He delivered newspaper every morning. He also made good use of the spare time between his busy club activities to do irregular part-time work.

Because of that he also went in and out of the business district at night. There he got acquainted and hit it off with a friend who wished to study abroad, and after graduating high school he went to Spain—

He encountered Goddess Aphrodite. He confronted the pursuer Nemesis.

The flight while sheltering the goddess who assimilated with Rokuhara Ren's body. The first godslayer. The chance meeting with Julio, and also learning about the "secret society" that was the Campiones association.....

And then, Ren learned.

The authority of retribution that he took away from Goddess Nemesis.

When this authority “greatly rampaged”, an unexpected situation that could possibly occur was—.

.

『Say Julio. Just what in the world is this.....!?』

『It's better to not ask. If my conjecture is correct, then I'll have to say an answer that is really not satisfactory.....!』

What could it possibly be? “That Rokuhara Ren” was looking dumbfounded. Julio Blandelli was spitting out his words with a sorrowful look.

The sight that the two of them were looking at should be something that a lot of Japanese recognized.

The head office building of a certain television station. Rainbow Bridge. The cluster of high-rise buildings ahead of it.

Odaiba. It was the bay area of 21st century Tokyo.

However, sea water was surging to this area like raging billows. That sight could be seen from the rooftop of a building where Rokuhara Ren and Julio were standing at.

A giant tsunami that flowed in from Tokyo Bay—it didn't just swallow Odaiba.

Not just the wards that were near the sea like Koutou ward or Edogawa ward, even the city center and the residential area from further inland in Tokyo until Saitama were filled with surging waves.

In addition *GOuuUUUUUUUUUUUNN* such heavy bass sound shook the air.

『Fujiyama is.....』

『The risk of eruption of Mountain Fuji.....』

Smoke and volcanic ash soared to the sky, making the world to be terribly dim.

But, the sun's radiance pierced through the veil of dust and ash even then. It somehow illuminated the surface that was covered with nothing but sea water but——

『The sun is.....swallowed by a black shadow.』

『That's not just a solar eclipse. It's "death of the sun" so to speak. The morning sun won't rise for the second time.....』

Julio's words were correct.

Even after one day passed, two days passed, the sun didn't rise anymore.

The moon also vanished from the sky. Whether it was noon or night, there was only grey colored curtain fully covering the sky. The skyscrapers of Tokyo were completely swallowed by the great flood. There wasn't any sign at all that the water level would decrease.

Julio used magic and checked the situation at other places.

Not just Japan archipelago, the whole Asia, North America, South America, Middle East, Africa, Europe——

Similar tragedy was occurring in the whole world even including the north pole and south pole.

.

『There is already no doubt. The end of the world——Doom is beginning.』

.

Julio whispered.

A world where even the moon and the sun died. The gods who were angered by that grey sky manifested in succession. Not just gods, even demon and monster kind came.

Red, blue, black, green, gold, silver, etc. There were also dragons with various colors.

Were they 『Beast of 666』 that were written in the bible? That enormous whale was Leviathan. That giant beast that looked similar to elephant might be Behemoth.

A silver serpent was visible only for an instant—the silver haired girl riding on its head, could she be Goddess Athena?

Everyone descended to bring destruction to this earth.

And then they watched everything.

「.....」

Riona fell into her thought wordlessly.

The scene that she caught a glimpse of just now, she wondered just what kind of meaning it had.

.

This was a room in an inn of Sanctuary Midgard.

Riona was still sitting in lotus position on the bed. The flame that welled up from her whole body just a little while ago had already vanished. And then, there was the sight she had just seen.

「Really, just what was that.....?」

Riona muttered once more.

It seemed some kind of “connection” was made between her and Rokuhara Ren. That was why she received the mysterious power at the fight against the wolf head and she was also able to see his past a little bit.

However, the thing that she saw after that.

「The end of the world? How absurd.....」

After Riona arbitrarily decided that, she was startled.

She wanted to meet him very much she couldn't help it. That was what she felt.

「Eh? What is this?」

It was obviously an unnatural emotion. She couldn't help but feel how dear he was to her. She wanted to meet that person even for a second faster. Such feeling was welling up. Riona retorted to herself.

「What kind of crazy thing that I'm of all people——」

It was at that moment. *Knock knock*. The wooden door was knocked.

「Riona, you there?」

「!? Co co co, come in!」

She could hear the voice of the person in question. Riona hurriedly jumped down from the bed and replied.

Click. Rokuhara Ren entered the room. Riona asked.

「Do, don't tell me, you are going to talk about the political marriage again!？」

「Ah, that will be good. Let's talk about it later without rushing. But, put it aside right now.」

Rokuhara Ren's face was unusually serious.

「I can't find Cassandra anywhere.」

.

Ren and Riona headed to the stable.

「Is this Cassandra's doing just as I thought?」

「I believe so. If unrelated person come to steal it then the goat will make a ruckus, and the princess is used to handle domestic animals that she can even ride an unsaddled horse.」

The chariot of lightning god Thor and one goat were remaining.

However, “the other goat” that should be pulling the borrowed item from god couldn't be found anywhere.

Meeeee. The divine beast who served the lightning god neighed with a carefree voice. This goat with its really smart looking face and eyes obviously understood human language, but,

「It can't talk, so it will be pointless to ask him where its partner is going huh.」

「No, that idea is good. You, can you follow your partner's trail?」

Meeeee. The goat replied.

Thus—

Ren and Riona rushed out in a chariot that was pulled only by a single goat.

The chariot left the inn town and dashed through the wilderness at night without any hesitation. By the way it seemed that Thor's goats were named Tanngnisnir and Tanngnjostr.

「It's unclear which one is “him” though!」

「I wonder if he can follow the smell? It's running in a straight line!」

Rattle rattle. Rattle rattle. Rattle rattle rattle rattle.

The wheels of the lightning god chariot were two. Both of them were made from iron and rotated lightly. However the sound wasn't as stirring and clamorous like usual.

The pulling power of two goats was halved, and it must be also because the goat was following the smell of its partner.

Thanks to that the usual speed couldn't be showed, but the riding comfort was better than usual. Ren talked to Riona who was standing beside him at the driver stand.

「As I thought would it be better if I stayed in the same room with Cassandra?」

「That again..... Even though there is also the talk of political marriage with me, Rokuhara-san is really a good-for-nothing goshujin-sama isn't it.」

「But you know, I don't know how it happen but」

Ren smiled with his usual carefree mood and said smoothly.

「My power right now is flowing into Riona right? In that case making you into my partner officially might certainly be alright. That's what I thought.」

「So you noticed it. You are sharp at strange place.....」

Riona sighed above the clattering chariot.

「Perhaps, it's because of the authority that Rokuhara-san stole from Goddess Nike. In the end you couldn't defeat Athena at Troia but, you defeated Nike who acted as her substitute didn't you?」

「Ah, now that you mentioned it!」

Human who killed god ate their soul and obtained god's authority.

That was the cause that made Rokuhara Ren acquired “power that surpassed humanity” in the first place.

「Athena’s winged partner, the goddess of victory Nike——. Perhaps, it’s an authority to create the same existence like Nike for Rokuhara-san……」

「I see. Then, now Riona can also power up which is really great isn’t it?」

「I wonder about that.」

Ren lightly accepted the situation, in contrast Riona was gloomy for some reason.

「If I formally accepted your authority, it feels like Rokuhara-san will barge into even my private live so……. I’m wary toward that.」

「It’s fine. I’m a person who is able to clearly separate private matter and public matter even in relationship.」

「Looks like it. I understand that very well when I reflect on the state of Rokuhara-san’s circle of friend……especially your woman relationship.」

「Hahahaha.」

Ren laughed and then tilted his head with a serious face.

「Eh? Did I tell Riona about it in that much detail?」

「It must be the influence of this state that is like a provisional contract. Even though it’s not my intention, I can see things like Rokuhara-san’s memory. Fragmentarily.」

「Hee!」

The night of Midgard that was illuminated by the full moon was unexpectedly bright.

However, thinking that radiant moon was being chased by Hati, a son of demon wolf Fenrir that was also a demon wolf——.

But, thanks to the escaping silver moon, the country road at the open plain had good visibility.

And then Ren finally found it.

The goat of lightning god Thor that was walking at a steady pace on the road at night, and the silver haired beautiful girl Cassandra straddling its bare back that didn't even have a saddle on it.

「Whoohoo. We caught up right away!」

「Ren-sama and Riona-sama!?!」

.

They somehow managed to find Princess Cassandra.

Ren and Riona asked her why she traveled by herself but—

「The, there is a compelling situation.」

The princess of Troia only said that with a troubled face.

However, Riona's wisdom guessed her circumstance with that.

「Could it be princess, you obtained a foresight of the future aren't you?」

「I, it's a secret!」

Cassandra was startled and turned her gaze to faraway direction.

There was no doubt. Ren recalled. When Troia's prophet talked about the future, the people who heard her would feel disgust and distrust welling up in their heart.

It was because of the curse of sun god Apollo who granted the spiritual power of foresight to her.

「Even though it will be fine if you told me because I'll be alright」

The godslayer Rokuhara Ren could brush aside even the curse with his willpower.

But, Cassandra shook her head at Ren's grumbling.

「Actually.....I don't have the confidence to be able to guide Ren-sama until the "appropriate land". And so, I'm thinking to ascertain it first by myself.」

The cursed prophet spoke while choosing her words.

「But, on the way here, I saw something further. If it happen "just as I saw"—then I have to hurry. Ren-sama, Riona-sama.」

Cassandra's face turned serious and she appealed to them.

「Can you two come together with me without asking anything?」

「Rokuhara-san. Right now we are lacking any clue. I believe that this is a windfall for us.」

「I agree. Let's leave everything to Cassandra here.」

「Tha, thank you very much!」

Thus, the journey of Ren's party resumed.

The chariot was pulled by two goats once more for the three people journey.

Although they weren't going at full speed too this time. They were driving safely while being guided by Cassandra who was carefully ascertaining the direction.

The two girls were at the driver stand. Ren was at the rear stand. That was the positioning.

And then, Cassandra sometimes would stretch her right hand and index finger toward a point at the night sky.

「Are you checking the angle and view of the north star.....」

Riona stared at the same direction with the prophet of Troia and nodded.

「Could it be princess, you are someone who can learn your current position from the direction you saw the star or the like?」

「Yes. I was taught by Onii-sama when he occasionally took me along to a plain or desert.」

Onii-sama. A feeling of particular dearness was dwelling within the reverberation of Cassandra's voice.

Surely she was talking about Prince Hector who had passed away now, the heir who should become the king of Troia and the hero who was praised as 『a model of knight』 .

When they stopped the chariot for a break, Riona and Ren whispered with each other.

「The princess remember how the north star look within her prophecy.」

「So she is planning to lead us until the same location in her prophecy.」

However midway the wall that separated Midgard with “outside” was in their way. But as soon as the two goats neighed *Meeee* *Meeee*, the air around them wavered——

The wall that should be right in front of them had moved behind them when they noticed.

In front of them stretched an endless wasteland with plants only growing sparsely here and there. The sacred goat chariot had performed “instant teleportation” with Ren and co still riding on it.

「My. So both of you can pass through the wall!」

「Come to think of it, lightning god Thor often assaulted the giant's country.」

Cassandra was surprised. Riona too was nodding.

However, as expected the limit of their stamina arrived seeing they didn't sleep at night. Before the night sky was getting brighter, Ren and co stopped the chariot and camped.

They made a bonfire, wrapped themselves with the blanket that was placed on the chariot and slept.

Riona placed four talismans at the four direction of the camp. It not only became a barrier, it would also notify them of danger.

The next morning. They finished breakfast with bread, jerky, and fruit that they brought with them before departing.

Surprisingly, Cassandra was able to see the “star” even when it was noon. She continued to guide them to “a certain direction”. Surely her eyesight was tremendously good. Come to think of it there were also those among the nomad of desert or grassland who possessed the same special skill. Ren recalled about it.

Like that after around two days—

Ren and co continued to run across the wasteland where “the giants were living”.

They finally arrived at the bank of a large lake.

The sun had gone down considerably. It was evening. Half of the night sky was already swallowed by darkness.

「It's here! It's right nearby this lake!」

Cassandra suddenly yelled.

「Tha, that's, I can't speak in detail about what will happen but, anyway we have arrived!」

However it immediately became clear.

From beyond the night sky that was becoming darker each second, two streaks of light were falling toward them. Both of them were demon wolf that boasted giant body with length of more than ten meters.

Right after that, *DOuuuuuuuuNN!* a quake occurred.

The black giant wolf and the grey giant wolf crashed together on the ground—. However, the grey wolf with emerald eyes was in the position of holding down the other wolf.

Those eyes were familiar. If he remembered correctly they belonged to Marquis Voban.

And then, the green eyed grey wolf sunk his teeth into his enemy's windpipe and bit!

Blood splashed.

「Aa! Forgive me Ren-sama!」

Cassandra raised a sorrowful yell.

「Even though we might be able to prevent this from happening if only we are able to arrive a bit earlier!」

「Noo..... It's already enough that you brought us here. Thank you.」

Ren nodded at the princess o Troia.

After that he exchanged gaze with Japan's great onmyouji who might become his partner someday. Riona's eyes quickly began to shine blue.

In respond to Ren's will, her 『full power』 was being released.

It was prompt even though it was before Ren gave her permission with his words. But, Ren shelved the question for later and said.

「For now I'll be going. I'll face Voban-san. Riona, I won't mind if you come helping me with your serious full strength anytime.」

Saying that Ren walked up toward the enlarged grey wolf by himself.

The black wolf that was pinned down by that giant wolf—Fenrir wasn't even twitching. After a chase that went for a long time, he was totally exhausted and finally got finished off. That was the end of the path of the monster.

Chapter 4 – Contract of Wings

1

The sky was burning red from the light of the red sunset.

The night would come soon in the world of Norse mythology. They had left Midgard where humans were living, crossed the deserted wasteland, and finally reached a corner of the giant country.

「Kukukuku. So you come, brat.」

One of the giant wolves that fell from the crimson sky—.

The victorious grey wolf let out a familiar laughing voice from his mouth.

It was just a laugh with hidden meaning, but as expected from a beast with size that could be mistaken as monster, his voice resounded booming through the red sky that looked like fresh blood.

The wolf's eyes that were shining in emerald color were directed straight to the ground surface.

Toward Rokuhara Ren who got down from the goat chariot and walked closer.

「Very well, I'll introduce myself once more..... I am Dejanstahl Voban. I have also called as marquis and some other names many times. You can prostrate yourself toward the prestige of a 『king』 that has gone far ahead of you.」

「Thank you for the polite introduction.」

The wolf king's large body began to shrink without waiting for Ren's reply.

It was a transformation from more than 50 meter long in total to a Caucasian young man with height of 180 cm. His wide forehead and sharp gaze were intellectual yet ferocious like before. However.

There was stain at the black coat and business suit that the marquis were wearing along with his right shoulder and the side of his torso.

Most likely it was because of bleeding. His seething killing intent was going strong, but it was slightly lacking in luster compared to when they met at the coast of Spain. He was a wounded beast.

(After all he had just chased Fenrir more than four days and only landed the finishing blow just now.)

During that time he shouldn't even have time for decent meal and felt totally exhausted right now.

If he was going to have a fight against Mr. Voban, then it was his chance right now.....?

But, Ren felt a chill for some reason. The instant he considered such thing, a terribly irrational instinct reared its head.

.....It was the opposite. The creature before him was at his most dangerous exactly when it was wounded.

It was because he was completely hungry, thirsty, and fatigued that these beasts dragged out the most atrocious power from the bottom of their selves. They leisurely overturned the logic of this world—.

And then, as though seeing through Ren's instinct,

「That's a good instinct, brat.」

Marquis Voban spoke with sharp eye glint.

It was enlightening, he was certainly a “colleague”. Rokuhara Ren and Mr. Voban who introduced himself as godslayer. The two of them undoubtedly shared something that surpassed the wall of culture or age.

「And yet there is no way the two of us can become friend?」

「Obviously. We are godslayer you know? Even if the end of the world is coming, it's impossible for us to do something like take each other's hand. Absolutely.」

「Hahahaha」

Voban talked flippantly and Rne laughed. In a glance it was an amiable lighthearted talk.

But, this was nothing more than a communication between fellow beast, fellow demon king. There was not friendship that was fostered in this time.....

「Even so, freedom is a good thing isn't it.」

Voban looked back and spoke in satisfaction.

There the corpse of a black giant wolf, Fenrir who just gotten bitten to death was lying.

「I can travel to search for a new battlefield following my heart's wish, looking for enemy that is worthy for Voban. I am able to fight like this to my satisfaction.」

「You speak as though you weren't free until recently.」

「.....I wonder how many years it has been since then. I suffered an embarrassing defeat in a battlefield and died for a while.」

A sudden bombshell statement. However, the marquis continued calmly.

「My body perished and even my soul was in the verge of annihilation. However, I somehow held my ground there and gathered strength little by little—and performed the ceremony of reincarnation. With that I was finally able to resurrect.」

「By reincarnation you mean, you were born again?」

「Indeed. I also lost several of my authorities but, through being reborn my mind and body were rejuvenated. The negative might be balanced with the positive. Well, it's a common story.」

It seemed that Riona's imagination hit the bull's eye. Ren grumbled.

「For your information, that's a really uncommon story around me you know?」

「That's not true.」

Voban denied Ren with weirdly absolute conviction.

「If you are also a colleague of mine, then you must have the experience of being resurrected from the depth of death. After all clinging to life with tenacity that is even more unsightly than the immortal gods everywhere is how it is for the creature called “godslayer”.」

「Hee. So Voban-san is also like that!」

To think that the talk would get lively with this kind of sympathy between them.

Ren was getting even more fascinated into the conversation with the person who was like a fierce beast before his eyes.

「Could it be Voban-san, you are called something like 『marquis』, so are you someone who was born several hundred years ago? From your appearance, you aren't even ten years older than me and yet—I feel like the generation gap between us is at least three or four centuries.」

「Fuh. Even if you are actually correct, I have no obligation to teach you.」

The person who kept stimulating Ren's curiosity seemed intent to stick to his own path to the end.

Marquis Voban wore a smile that couldn't be taken as a cold smile or scorning smile along with a dignity like a great noble of the ancient time.

Right after that, the corpse of the giant wolf Fenrir behind him vanished.

It suddenly crumbled and became dust before vanishing like mist.

However, Ren's—godslayer's sixth sense sensed it. The divine power dwelling inside Fenrir's huge body and soul was being absorbed into his murderer.

「Eh? That wolf, wasn't it a monster!?!」

「The giants and monsters in Norse mythology—especially the bunch that play an active role in Ragnarok are said to be “god's relative”. Consequently, demon wolf Fenrir's authority is now mine. But, it's also uninspiring to suddenly test it. First I'll face you with “other power than that”.」

「Uwa, so this is how it turn out.」

Ren grumbled. And then, Voban's body floated up to the sky.

Suddenly an updraft occurred. It brought the godslaying marquis to the sky.

「It's an authority that the people who once feared me prostrated to and called 《 Sturm und Drang 》. Brat, show me how strong the godslayer of this generation is!」

The red sky of the sunset was suddenly filled with lightning cloud.

Marquis Voban pointed his index finger to that cloudy sky. Instantly lightning descended with thundering roar *GOuuuuNN!*. It went toward Rokuhara Ren!

「Lightning attack!?! That's the same authority with Zeus and Thor then!」

Ren used his specialty escaping feet even while feeling astonished.

He leaped ten meter backward the instant there was only 50 cm more before the lightning from the sky hit. Marquis Voban laughed loudly seeing that movement.

「Hahahaha! User of godspeed is interesting!」

「I wish that you will be more interested to my personality or something else rather than my power!」

Even when he complained there was lightning, lightning, lightning, lightning. He dodged everything with the escaping feet he stole from Goddess Nemesis.

He used the footwork and defensive body movement he learned from dabbling in boxing at the past.

Thanks to his innate sense of rhythm and shrewdness, the lightness of his motion already reached the territory of dancing.

But, even more spear of lightning descended from the lightning cloud toward Ren who was magnificently jumping around.

「Oops!」

「Kuku. You're restlessly quick.」

The marquis made a meaningful laugh at Ren's footwork that prevented the lightning to even graze him.

Now then, a calm and composed enemy was floating in midair. Should he try reflecting the lightning attack right now with the authority of retribution to shoot him down—.

Wind was blowing when he noticed.

Furthermore it was terrifyingly cold, a wind that was mixed with snow. Perhaps it was a portent of coming blizzard. The force of the wind was gradually increasing that it made him thought that.

And yet.

Marquis Voban kept floating within the snowy wind.

He was wearing black coat. But, its long fabric didn't flap. The marquis's own body also wasn't affected by the strong wind.

As though it wasn't only lightning, but even the snow and whirlwind were also the marquis's servant.

「Is he able to float in the sky by controlling wind or even air?」

(That's right, Rokuhara-san!)

「Riona!?」

(That's most likely an authority that controls the air or weather!)

A whispering voice replied at Ren's monologue.

It was Riona who should be standing by at the rear along with Cassandra.

(It's just like the fight with Zeus, I believe it won't be really effective even if you apply retribution to the lightning that a lightning user fired one by one. That's why, with my power—!)

It was more a communion between mind rather than a conversation. Their heart was communicating to each other.

Ren keenly felt the something that perhaps should be called as the “power of bond” with her and then he yelled.

「Go at full strength, Riona!」

(Of course!)

A golden sacred bird Yatagarasu flew above Ren and Voban.

He poured his own magic power all at once toward the majestic figure with wings span of twenty meter. Ren pictured such image in his mind. Right after that.

The soaring Yatagarasu's whole body instantly—blazed bluish white!

2

Rokuhara Ren, his first authority was 《Nemesis's Retribution》 .

His second authority was 《Circle of Friendship》 . Then, what should his third authority be called as?

「I still don't understand the whole picture of this ability.....」

Toba Riona who transformed into Yatgarasu complained inside her heart.

However, there was one thing that was certain. Due to the third authority's blessing, Riona=Yatgarasu's power leveled up by several stages!

「Secret words of fire and sun, purify and exorcist all kinds of sinful impurities!」

In respond to the words of power, her golden body was burning bluish white.

It wasn't the crimson flame that she had used many times until now, but a new weapon that surpassed it. The power that defeated even that tenacious wolf head—.

「Brat, so you also have a retainer!」

The demon king floating in the air narrowed his eyes. Like a cat in front of a treat.

Even the intrusion of Riona was nothing to him. It was due to his experience gained through many battles and adversities.

Yatagarasu flew straight toward the composed marquis.

She planned to tackle him while burning bluish white to send him flying and burned him to ash.

The large phoenix with wings span of 20 meter attacked a human whose height wasn't even 2 meter—it was a comical situation. However Riona was convinced.

That demon king wasn't so soft that he would be defeated with this!

「O wind, blow」

Voban chanted short words of power. A headwind instantly blew.

Yatagarasu who should be charging straight toward the floating demon king was being pushed back—by the mystical powerful gale.

Gou-! Gou-! The wind growled and mercilessly struck with air pressure to the spread open wings of Japan's sacred bird. The advance of Riona=Yatagarasu was easily pushed back.

Furthermore, Voban's words of power hadn't ended.

「O rain, come. Become sleet, and call for the snow.」

Moisture was added to the blowing headwind, and it turned into a wind that was mixed with sleet.

The water content immediately became snow crystal that transformed into a violent blizzard that attacked Riona. The flame that was burning from Yatagarasu's whole body—was slightly weakening.

「By means of blazing fire and mine malediction, exorcise and purify!」

「I call the wind, subdue the rain, and gather the lightning. Know that both the scorching wind and the freezing wind are mine to command. I shall bring—the fury of storm and raging waves to this land!」

The fire's words of power, and storm's words of power.

Someone who served a godslayer and a person who murdered a god himself clashed.

Riona=Yatagarasu tried to flap her wings. In order to advance forward and consigned the devil who was far smaller than her to oblivion. However she couldn't advance. She couldn't move her wings.

The great whirlwind that finally became a blizzard blocked her path and forced her back.

On top of that she was badly pounded by the lightning attack from the sky. In addition it wasn't just one, lightning kept raining down again and again, tormenting the sacred bird's enormous body with unequalled heat and impact!

「A—AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!」

Before she knew it, Riona's soul was screaming. However.

「Rokuhara-san! It's still not enough with this-. Pour more power to me!」

「Of course! Leave it to me!」

Riona entreated from the sky. The goshujin-sama on the ground responded to it.

It was then, something was——welling up.

It was like a puzzle piece that just wouldn't fit in until now, or key and keyhole interlacing together with the sound *click*.

Instantly, Rokuhara Ren's will and mystical force melted into one with Toba Riona——

臨、兵、闘、者、皆、陣、列、在、前

「Rin, Hyou, Tou, Sha, Kai, Jin, Retsu, Zai, Zen! O nine character of dharani, protect me!」

The words of power of punishing evil. It dispelled all the descending lightning attacks.

Even the blowing blizzard already felt like just a breeze. Riona fully spread open her wings as the bird of guidance Yatagarasu.

「All kind of misfortunes, be exorcised by the purification of fire!」

What responded to the prayer of fire was Riona's shikigami, the twelve divine generals.

They were spirits of burning bright red flame, as the spirit of sun's servants—they manifested.

Of course there were twelve of them. They were a large cluster of flame that was as big as the sacred bird. The spirits also soared, following behind Yatagarasu who was starting to advance once more!

Of course Marquis Voban was ahead of them.

However, there was something that suddenly appeared between them and the king of demon wolf, the caller of storm.

「O wolf born in the forest of iron. O wolf who bite apart every binding chain.」

Voban's chanting resounded amidst the wind that was carrying blizzard.

「Your name Fenrir now belong to me. The wolf of Ragnarok insatiably lust for the moon and the sun. From here on, I'll bring ruin to multitude of stars.....」

「!？」

Riona=Yatagarasu was shocked.

Voban's figure changed in the air. He was turning gigantic.

It wasn't a transformation to the wolf that they saw before. Amazingly, he transformed into the remains of Fenrir that he sent to grave with his own fangs. Riona muttered in a daze.

「A wolf's—skull.....」

Yes. Marquis Voban transformed into a giant skull.

What's more it was a wolf's skull. It must be the head of the demon wolf Fenrir. The flesh had been shaved and rot to nothing, leaving behind only a skull. Even though it didn't have body let alone wings, it drifted in the air like will o' wisp—.

And then.

It was thrice as big as Yatagarasu with her wings spread out!

「Come, I'll swallow in you in one gulp!」

The wolf's skull opened its mouth wide—

And moved to swallow Yatagarasu and the twelve flame spirits whole!

Riona exercised her telekinesis and stopped the movement of the upper and lower jaws. In addition she chanted the fire's words of power.

「O spirit of fire and sun!」

Riona=Yatagarasu and the twelve flame spirits simultaneously emitted bluish white flame.

They enveloped the skull of Fenrir with scorching conflagration. It was their desperate counterattack. She wished she could grill the skull until not even bone was left. However.

「Hahahaha! An admirable resistance!」

「Kuh——!」

GI-, GI-, GI-, GI-, GI-!

The huge and powerful skull of Fenrir lowered its upper jaw and raised its lower jaw little by little in order to swallow the sacred bird Yatagarasu.





She couldn't stop it anymore. When Riona was about to despair——

Rokuhara Ren's whisper came into her ear.

「The goddess of revenge ^{Nemesis} pass down the divine punishment to misdeed that jeopardize life.....」

A goddess spread open her white wings and descended.

With ice blue hair and black mask and clad in red dress, it was the goddess of retribution Nemesis. When Rokuhara Ren wielded this authority, it materialized——this phantom.

「I wish for the judgment of justice here!」

Rokuhara Ren chanted the words of power on the ground.

The phantom of goddess Nemesis immediately stretched out her slender beautiful hand and dozens of lightning attacks were released from her palm toward Fenrir's skull.

The lightning that Marquis Voban unleashed was sent back by means of retribution.

「Oo!?!」

The surprised voice of the marquis leaked out from the wolf's skull.

Yatagarasu's flame and Nemesis's lightning exploded together and greatly sent the skull of the dead Fenrir backward!

It was the moment Riona and Ren surpassed the opponent in a direct contest of strength.

「Fuh.....」

Fenrir's skull grinned before it quietly descended to the ground.

It headed toward the location of the godslayer Rokuhara Ren. The Japanese youth was at the bank of the vast lake.. The lake water was blue and clear. It was terribly beautiful if only that part was looked.

But, the surrounding was a wasteland with rugged rocks. The blueness of the lake water was spreading there.

It looked pretty bleak in the eyes of Riona that was overlooking it from a bird's-eye view.

And then, the skull of dead demon wolf came down on the lake shore.

When it stepped on the ground it was already the figure of Marquis Voban in his black coat and business suit.

「Kukukuku. As I thought the respond from a fellow godslayer is different.....」

The chuckling godslayer and Rokuhara Ren confronted each other once more.

Riona=Yatagarasu also swooped down to the ground in order to rush there.

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Marquis Voban exposed his joy in front of Ren.

Riona who came down from the sky returned to his girl form and ran to his side. The young man in black coat stared at Ren and Riona who had returned back as a duo and muttered.

「It seems—you're a prey that would be a waste to be snacked on while I'm wounded like this.」

「Eh?」

「Brat. I'll recognize the strength of you and your retainer. That's why I'll say this. The conclusion of this will be for another day. From here I will wait for my wound to recover.」

Marquis Voban's black coat had several blood stains.

He continued fighting Fenrir for more than four days. He should be exhausted, hungry, and thirsty. In fact, if he was in his best condition—would he avoid direct clash with Ren and escaped to the sky?

When Rokuhara Ren was a boxer, he was skilled in dancing like butterfly, avoiding direct clash with his enemy.

But, he was convinced. Voban was a fighter.

He was a type that would rush the enemy with the resoluteness of a wild beast and beat them up with overwhelming blow and number of punches.

「I will grant you the honor of fighting against the perfect form of Voban.」

「That's, I should say 'thank you for the feeling but I refuse' here.」

In front of the adversary's fighting spirit, Ren—relaxed his shoulder's tension.

There was no meaning in a contest of strength. He was someone who made use of the enemy's strength. That was why he said with a wry smile.

「If we're going to settle it anyway then it's better to just do it today like this.」

「Exactly. This is what they call nonsense. We have no intention to do a philanthropic work like intentionally giving a powerful enemy time to

recover.」

As expected from a companion who might become his partner, Riona also spoke provocatively.

In contrast Marquis Voban was—bursting out laughing.

「Hahahaha, I have no need for you two to agree. I'll just take it away forcefully!」

The silver haired green eyed godslayer suddenly pointed to the sky.

A vast magic power that was beyond the imagination was emitted from his slender body.

「.....I declare here. That all living things are equal. Whether they are sinner or saint, commoner or hero, innocent child or their mother, they all will equally become the sustenance for my fire.」

「!?」

Riona was shocked as soon as she heard the chanting.

「I allow you to carefully observe..... the moment the purgatory of flame, the kingdom of fire is born!」

「That is words of power of fire! You, you have even killed a god of fire too!?!」

The lightning cloud filling the sky—was vanishing.

The sun had set when they noticed. The night of Norse mythology was arriving. But it wasn't a jet black darkness. Above Ren and Riona's head, a gigantic ball of fire was—manifesting.

In exchange of the thunder cloud, this time it was a ball of fire that was greatly expanding and covering the sky.

And then it fell.

The lump of fire fell toward the ground.

It was like a cloud of flame. The great fire endangered not only Rokuhara Ren, its scale would burn this whole area and changed it into a scorched earth. Such calamity was invading from the sky. Most likely it would reach the ground in dozens more seconds—.

「I'm leaving now. Don't worry, you won't need to wait that long. Know that our duel will happen in several more days or around a week!」

「Leaving behind this kind of parting gift is just too much isn't it!?」

「Haha. If you are someone who will die just from this much then there won't be any need for Voban's fang to bury you.」

The demon wolf slayer marquis snickered in response to Ren's complaint.

A girl in black dress appeared right beside him. It was the spirit of grimoire that they also saw before. As usual she wielded magic power for Marquis Voban's sake.

「Sorcery instant teleportation, chanting. Your excellency, please accept the magic's working.」

「Very well, do it. Farewell, brat.」

The next instant Marquis Voban and the spirit of grimoire had already vanished.

On the other hand, Ren and Riona had no leeway to chase them.

「Can't be helped. I'll try throwing the same flame with Nemesis-san's authority to negate it!」

「You can do such thing Rokuhara-san!? If my observation is correct, that is a big fire that can burn down the whole Tokyo—it's a super extra large flame you know!?」

「.....Ah, sorry. It seems it's impossible. Certainly the scale is too big.」

Ren tried to use the retribution and noticed.

「It's impossible unless I slowly concentrate like when resurrecting the dead people at Troia. No, even if there is time that fire is too powerful, it feels like the chance of failure will be fifty-fifty.....」

「So it's completely hopeless!」

Riona was flustered. Ren gave a thumb up and called out.

「It can't be helped so let's run away too using instant teleportation!」

「That's a troublesome magic with the highest difficulty, it's necessary to prepare magic circle and many more things at the destination! Also it's outside the expertise of onmyouji like me so I can't use it!」

「Eh, is that so!?!」

「Here the way to escape is this way!」

Their surrounding started to shine blue. They flew to the sky along with that light.

It was the flight magic that had helped them out several times. However, the flame became a great vortex that filled the sky, so they couldn't elevate their altitude. They were flying in high speed at a height that grazed the ground——

「The lake!」

「It's a gamble whether diving into the lake will be enough to survive “that flame”, it's all or nothing!」

Yes. Fortunately they were at the bank of a lake.

Riona and Ren became blue light and leaped into the water.

Several seconds later, the ground and lake surface were——covered by flame. If Riona's prediction was correct, the radius of around 20 km would

get burned to nothing. That was how great the scale of the conflagration was.

This was the best that they could do here.

Ren muttered while diving into the water together with his companion.

「Evil should be given the judgment of justice. Good should be given the blessing of justice. I wish for the goddess's divine protection for her good will.....」

And then, Riona's apprehension came true.

The flame not only burned the lake surface, it even penetrated inside the water, bringing scorching heat even to the people lurking inside the lake.

Although, Rokuhara Ren was a godslayer. Actually he would be able to escape using Nemesis's escaping feet, just like when he survived against sea god Poseidon underwater.

However, this time it was impossible.

There was no way—he could drag Riona into that movement.

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Just a little while ago, when the lightning cloud that was called by the demon wolf slayer suddenly cleared up.

「My? The sky is suddenly clearing up?」

「Stella-sama!」

Cassandra sharply called to the small goddess who was marveling at the sight from the driver stand of the goat chariot.

The two of them were waiting together with the chariot at slight distance away until the duel between two “fellow godslayers” settled down.

「We can't stay any longer here! Let's depart!」

「Eh? Wha-wha-wha-what are you intending to do princess!?!」

The princess of Troia royal family gave a signal with the rein and made the two goats ran.

Rattle rattle rattle rattle! The iron wheels rotated fast.

「Ren and the bird girl are still fighting that beast you know!?!」

「I know-. But, if we don't survive first then we will become a hindrance to Ren-sama and Riona-sama!」

A faint golden shine was dwelling inside Princess Cassandra's eyes.

Noticing that, Stella guessed the situation. The princess had seen the future with the spiritual power bestowed to her from the god of god who was also a god of foresight.

And then, several dozen seconds later.

A gigantic lump of flame descended from the sky!

「That's an authority of world destroying conflagration—! To, to think that beast will unleash a ridiculous might to such degree, what is the deal with him!?!」

「Hurry! Please hold on to me firmly!」

「Ky, KYAAAAAAAAAAH!?!」

Stella noticed the flame's true identity with her sacred intuition. Cassandra made the goat chariot to dash in full power.

The goats of lightning god Thor furiously rushed through the wasteland with all their might.

But, the great fire that descended from the sky even then—possessed the might that could burn a territory that equaled a country to ash in one go.

Even if it was the favorite chariot of the lightning god, their escape wouldn't make it in time.....!

「Ren! Bird girl! Anyone is fine just come to save me! If that's no good then someone, a friend or gentleman who will protect me, quickly—!」

The goddess Aphrodite with the alias Stella prayed from the bottom of her heart.

But, there was no one who would respond to her.....was how it should be, and yet.

GOuuuuuuuuNN! Thunder roared.

「Do you call, Stella?」

「Oh my, Thor!」 「Thor-sama!」

Stella and Cassandra were astonished. The heroic figure of lightning god Thor descended to the center of the driver stand where the two were standing at. Just now he descended from beyond the sky together with a streak of lightning.

「How are you here!?!」

Stella was struck with admiration at the entrance of the muscular lightning god that was too sudden.

The authority Circle of Friendship couldn't be used if she wasn't together with Rokuhara Ren. In addition, summoning a god who had been called once would easily fail for a while.

The youth who shouldn't come had urgently descended here. However, the person himself gave a radiant smile *blink*.

「It's nothing big. It was you who prayed to the card that I gave right?」

「Card?」

「!? This must be what Thor-sama mean!」

Cassandra took out Thor's picture card from the leather bag on her waist.

It was a sacred treasure with the image of lightning god drawn with simple line drawing. Stella noticed the working.

「So the divine grace of this card is the protection from you!」

「Indeed! But, right now we should prioritize escaping from this predicament rather than talking. My sacred beasts the incarnation of lightning Tanngrisnir and Tanngrjotr——」

Thor called to the two goats dashing in full speed before his eyes.

「Now is the time to turn into light!」

In an instant, the chariot that was boarded by two gods and Troia's princess transformed into lightning.

GOU——! Thunder roared and in addition the chariot pushed on in a straight light with the speed of lightning itself. It ran through several kilometer of the bleak wasteland of giant country instantly.

It was truly a lightning escape.

The small goddess Stella and princess Cassandra managed to escape the fire like thus.

「Ren——!」

Stella called his name in worry of the safety of the godslayer who was her other half.

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Riona jumped into the lake with Rokuhara Ren.

It was a really vast lake. If compared to lake in Japan, then it would rival Kawaguchi Lake or Yamanaka Lake near mountain Fuji. Naturally the depth was also corresponding to that.

Most likely the depth was more than 200 meter. Even sunlight became unable to reach from the middle.

But, however.

The conflagration that attacked the lake surface penetrated until inside the water as though it was only natural——

Astonishingly, the fire continued to burn as it was. The flame evaporated the blue lake water, burned the plants, and burned to death the living things inside the water including the fishes.

And then, Riona and Ren who escaped into the water were also swallowed by this great fire.

(O divine spirit of wood fire earth metal water!)

Riona prayed.

She had prepared the talisman of water overcoming fire for this kind of situation. Perhaps because of its miraculous effect, she somehow escaped the fire calamity and able to reach until the depth that the flame didn't reach.

(Rokuhara-san——!?)

The young man who dived into the water with her was unconscious.

Godslayer should possess an absurd resistance toward magical attack. With Nemesis's authority this demon king should be able to run around like fish even underwater. What happened to him?

Her "connection" with goshujin-sama—enlightened her instantly.

(This person did something so dangerous!)

In that case, it was Riona's turn to protect him and herself.

(Namu Seiryuu manifest—)

She took out the talisman of pious woman and dragon king and prayed for the divine protection of water god.

A barrier to protect oneself from inability to breathe underwater, water pressure, decreasing body temperature due to lake water's coldness, every kind of watery calamity was laid out around them.

Riona held the unconscious Rokuhara young man with a single right hand.

(One shikigami, come to me)

The talisman that she threw with one hand transformed into a white carp underwater.

It was a large fish with length nearly two meter. Riona entrusted her body on the long back of the carp together with Rokuhara young man and tapped its slippery body surface.

The carp shikigami immediately started swimming.

It guided the humans who could only live on land toward a place of repose.

When she looked up, the conflagration was still burning not just at the lake surface but even underwater. Riona had a hunch as the incarnation of the bird of fire.

(That fire, it might not vanish for a whole week.....)

It wasn't a commonplace authority that would simply burn the enemy to death with fierce flame.

Most likely, it was something to be released when wanting to change a whole country into scorched earth—an authority of flame of annihilation. Such thing was used for 『diversion』 to escape from a pinch.

This was the godslaying beasts. What unprecedented absurdity. Riona was deeply astounded.

The only silver lining was that thanks to the burning great fire far above, the underwater that should be pitch black was illuminated brightly.....

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The swimming that was entrusted to a shikigami was so long it felt like forever.

But, in reality only less than ten minutes had passed.

The white carp entered into an underwater cave and brought the two of them until a spot that should be called 『air spot』 which existed deep inside.

Riona somehow crawled up to it while carrying the unconscious Rokuhara Ren.

「Di, did it sense the scent of air here.....?」

It was a stunt that was impossible for common fish.

Riona fully enjoyed the oxygen after so long while calming her breathing.

She threw a talisman to above her. As soon as it stuck to the ceiling, the whole ceiling shined and became lighting. The air spot was unexpectedly spacious.

It was a space that could contain three ready-built houses lined up.

There was a pool of water at one corner which was connected to the lake water.

「Next I wish there is fire. A moderate one like bonfire.....」

Riona's lips were shivering and she yearned for fire.

Sanctuary Midgard was already cold at the normal time. Furthermore this place was an underground cavern where sunlight didn't reach and her whole body was soaked wet.

She was completely chilled until the core of her body. She was already unable to feel her fingertips and toes.

How would she obtain warmth? The match and oil lighter she brought from earth were soaked and couldn't be used. Besides there was no kindling which was essential—.

「Come to think of it」

The unconscious Rokuhara Ren who was also dripping wet. She searched his jacket.

She took out a set of black flint from his pocket. It was a present from lightning god Thor. It was an excellent thing to lid fire at place where there was no fire or something.....

Gan-, gan-. She knocked them together really strongly.

There were five or six sparks scattered from the stones. While she was looking they combined into one and became a small glowing ember, and finally it vigorously started to combust *bou-!*—

It became a quite large bonfire.

Even though there wasn't even any kindling, it was a thriving firepower like a campfire.

「Uuh. Thor's present somehow saved us.....」

She felt grateful from her heart while approaching the fire.

The wet clothes took away her body temperature. Riona ignored that an opposite sex was sleeping beside her and took off her clothes except her underwear. Her slender build became exposed.

Her body had enough undulation (from her self-assessment).

But, it wasn't an attractive figure at the level of swimsuit gravure model like Princess Cassandra who was with them recently. She had such self-awareness. However, well—

「Perhaps Rokuhara-san doesn't really care about such thing.....」

She was able to understand her goshujin-sama's personality considerably.

It was thanks to her association with him that became relatively deep in a short time from the succession of carnages and the “connection” from his authority. The person in question was lying down as though he was dead.

His breathing and also his heartbeat were mostly stopping.

His body was also cold like ice. But when she checked for his pulse really attentively, there was a slight pulsation.

「This is because it's the same.....with that time he protected Princess Cassandra isn't it?」

It was a state of apparent death. Riona knew that.

The reason why she got away safely from getting exposed by the flame that burned everything even underwater.

It was the same with how Cassandra got slashed by the sword of the hero Ajax the Lesser—and didn't get wounded at all. She was protected by the authority of Goddess Nemesis.

『The divine protection of retribution』 that was bestowed to a human who performed good deed.

When that person was exposed to danger, they would be given a recompense for their good deed. Even if it was an absolutely cornered situation, they would be able to struggle through unharmed or only lightly injured—.

「But fortune and misfortune are intertwined. The disaster assaulting us will be charged as Rokuhara-san's debt that will bare its fang to this person at his time of crisis.....」

More specifically it was pain toward his heart and deterioration of his bodily function.

Because of that he failed to dodge the sword of Ajax the Lesser. Even now he was having labored breathing, writhing in pain, and lost consciousness underwater.

「You might die if you don't use it more carefully you know?」

She warned her goshujin-sama who was unable to speak. The way of using this authority was terrifyingly dangerous.

「Even now you will die if nothing is done.」

It shouldn't be used casually. But regardless of that, this carefree youth would grant the divine protection of retribution to other people with eerie readiness—.

Thanks to that Riona narrowly escaped death though.

‘Haa.’ Riona sighed and took off the youth's clothes.

It was an act that she wanted to avoid as a maiden in puberty. But, she didn't want to let Rokuhara Ren's body that was in coma to be chilled further than this. For the time being she took off his whole upper garment.

「Good grief. Making me does something like this, what an outrageous goshujin-sama.」

Riona's body had slightly warmed up thanks to the bonfire.

She touched the youth's body with her hand. It was cold like snow. If he wasn't immediately treated, he wouldn't recover his warmth and died.

She summoned the talisman of recovery from all kind of sicknesses. She burned it with her magical power and swallowed it.

Riona——kissed him.

A godslayer that shouldn't be effected by magical technique had the divine spell of healing breathed into him by mouth to mouth.

After that, she recalled the medicinal alcohol that they received from lightning god Thor. The mead of passion. The flint was this useful so.....

Riona fished out a small jar from the pocket of the clothes she took off.

She drank the mead inside and held it inside her mouth. It was terribly sweet. On top of that the alcoholic content was strong. The inside of her mouth turned hot as though it was burning. She felt that while also giving this by mouth to mouth——.

She poured it from her mouth to his mouth and somehow made the goshujin-sama drink it.

「It will be great if he is healed with this.」

Riona finished with the basic treatment and felt slightly relieved.

She summoned two talismans and changed them into thick clothes. They were for blanket replacement. She put on one of them for herself, while she wrapped the other one around the youth who was lying down while still naked on his upper body.

.....And then a few minutes later.

Complexion returned to the pale face of Rokuhara Ren.

She touched his cheek. It was slightly warm. The worst had passed and he survived.

「The godslayers has absurd life force as expected. Besides, when I carefully look at Rokuhraa-san like this, his face is really cute.....」

Riona was taken aback after she muttered that.

She wondered why. The goshujin-sama sleeping before her eyes—felt awfully dear to her.

「Ah, no, well. Putting aside the question whether he is like a demon king or not, I have learned from just now that he has a side with a large caliber on his own way though.....」

Yes. If it was with his ability,

Instead of braving this kind of danger, he should be able to 『run away by himself』 .

However, he didn't do that. Whether it was with Riona or with Princess Cassandra. Now that she had realized that, she wanted to thank him honestly. But, it should be as a 『traveling comrade』 , there was no reason for her to feel his greatly troublesome personality as cute.

「If it like this then perhaps he is a lovable person.....not that!」

Something that should even be called as a grand delusion was currently forming up.

Riona was aware of that and glanced at the ground.

The small jar that was sealed with honey wax until just now. It was filled with the mead of passion that was a present from lightning god Thor. If she remembered correctly its effect was—

「By drinking it your stamina will be matchless and your passion explode from its medicinal effect.....don't tell me」

She took the small jar once more and tried sniffing the smell inside.

It didn't only smell alcoholic, there was also a sweet scent like syrup. It felt like she would get intoxicated just from that. When she stared at the sleeping Rokuhara Ren with a dizzy head, euphoria was gradually welling up——

「So it's this thing's fault!」

As expected from a choice alcohol that was certified by the lightning god, it had an outrageous magical power.

Come to think of it, even Riona's completely chilled body was feeling pleasantly warm when she noticed. And then, at its depth a power was squirming, seeking for “goshujin-sama”.....

「Ah——」

Riona noticed.

Something different from the “delusion” due to the mead was squirming at the depth of her body.

It was an impulse that desired to drag out power from the sleeping goshujin-sama even forcefully to become even stronger and grander retainer. After all the reincarnation of sacred bird Yatagarasu had that much value, only the seat of queen was suitable for the personality called Toba Riona.

The power that was granted by the young godslayer was seeking even more power which stirred up Riona——.

「Rokuhara-san.....」

A sweet whisper that was completely unlike Toba Riona leaked out from her lips.

And then she opened the white clothes wrapped around her sleeping master that acted as replacement for blanket, and propped him up to lean on the cave's rock surface.

It was nice timing that he was asleep. Like this she could forcibly.....

She bent over Rokuhara Ren, brought her lips toward his neck, and when she was going to suck.

「If Riona has that kind of intention, then I'm honored and I'll happily accept so.....is it okay to change this posture slightly?」

「!？」

Riona returned to her senses and felt aghast.

Rokuhara Ren was recovering his consciousness in front of her within a breathing distance.

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「In other words, Riona became strength because of my power's fault?」

「Tha, that's how it is-. The authority that Rokuhara-san stole from Goddess Nike, I dare say that it's an ability to 『create a flying partner and share to it a strength that can fight against god』 for sure-」

Ren opened his eyes just when she was on the verge of assaulting the sleeping him.

When he called out to her, Riona was greatly flustered while starting to explain the circumstance.

She was boldly dressed in only cherry blossom colored lingerie and white cloth that looked like a bath towel over her body. Thanks to that her style that was slender like model and yet equipped with feminine roundness like at her breasts or the bulging of her butt could be seen clearly.

And then Riona was—desperately attempting to feign composure.

「And, the impulse to seek for power supply from the goshujin-sama ran wild and I think that perhaps it tried to take away that power without permission.....」

「So that kind of thing can also happen even when it's not in the middle of battle huh.」

「It's the fault of Thor's alcohol-. Also, there were various things that caused delusion to form inside me! I'll spare you the details though!」

「Aa. Riona, you mean about you kissing me.」

「!? How do you know about that!?」

「About that. I thought it's strange because I'm alive even though I thought I died already. And if it's Riona then it feels like you will be able to do the same thing like when Cassandra healed me before. Ah, that's right. You also helped me at the time when Athena got me at Troia weren't you?」

「.....aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa-!?!」

Ren witnessed it. Riona's chaotic behavior that was rarely seen.

A calm, cool, and collected girl with sharp and brilliant mind, in addition was her queenly temperament. But, she was also a younger high school girl who often committed careless blunder. Right now she raised a soundless scream in stupefaction.

She held her head and leaked out a despairing groan.

「So you realized it.....」

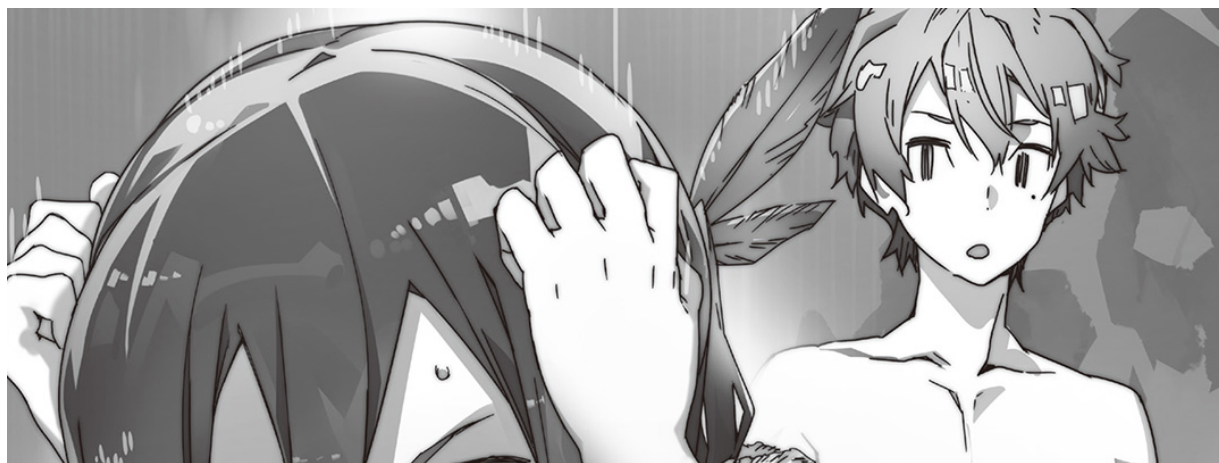
「I wasn't really sure about it until now though.」

「Ple, please also tell me one thing for reference. What was the basis of your sureness.....?」

「Riona, you are falling in love with me right?」

「Wha——!」

「My instinct for that kind of thing have never been wrong.」





He was a person who was sensitive to other people's good will since the past.

And then, even when he was aware that the other side didn't like him, he would close the distance without acting timid. That was the human called Rokuhara Ren. Perhaps this instinct was something he learned exactly because of that.

Riona was completely astounded she even forgot to deny it. Ren smiled at her.

On the other hand, it seemed the “queen” was inexperienced with this kind of approach. She spoke in great panic.

「E, even if it's love it's that you know? There isn't any emotion between man and woman in it.....it's an emotion as human, this is what they call the feeling of likes and dislikes you understand-!」

「Yep yep. I get it, totally.」

Ren casually replied and then he exhaled *fuuuuuu*.

「My body feels worse than when I got done in at Troia. I'll rest for a bit more.」

「Ah, then, I'll also.....」

Ren wrapped up himself with the cloth that was prepared when he woke up.

Riona also copied that. She was also tired. She felt a bit sleepy.

Like that, both of them sat down beside the bonfire and felt—chilly air blowing in.

「I forgot to ask but, where is this?」

「We slipped into a cave from underwater that lake and arrived here. At first I thought that this place is just an air spot but..... It seems the air is also moving, so perhaps, it's connected to a big cavern somewhere.」

「Could it be this is a dungeon!?!」

「It's possible. If we are lucky then we might find a path to the surface.」

However, right now they wanted to rest rather than exploring.

Ren leaned his body on the cave's wall once more and closed both his eyes.

After several minutes or dozens of minutes like that, when he was dozing off.....something was squirming beside him.

「What are you doing, Riona?」

「.....Heh?」

Riona entered within the cloth that was wrapped around Ren.

Her eyes clearly looked drowsy. And then, she was coming to Ren's side as though he was sleepwalking, like a cat who crawled into its owner's futon at the middle of night searching for warmth.

Riona's slender body snuggled up to Ren closely.

Her warmth was pleasant.

Fire was burning right beside them like a hearth. However, their body was still feeling really cold from sleeping in a cold underground space that was like a refrigerator.

In addition, Riona who was still half asleep brought her lips toward Ren's face——

「Riona?」

「.....Ah. What are you doing Rokuhara-san!?!」

「It's not me, it looks like you were the one who clung to me just now.」

When he pointed that out, Riona went 「!」 and returned to her senses. Her face turned serious and separated herself from Ren without delay. She picked up her own cloth that was discarded on the ground——

「My apologize. Then, good night Rokuhara-san.」

Riona declared with her usual tense and intelligent expression and lied down.

She showed her back and started to breath *suu suu* a sleeper's breath. He understood that she was feigning sleep, but he gave her the samurai compassion. Ren also closed his eyes once more. Several minutes later.

「You are coming to my place again, Riona.」

「Thi, this is the fault of Rokuhara-san's authority-! That's the cause my body is unconsciously seeking contact with you!」

Riona crawled into Ren's blanket once more while half asleep.

She returned to her senses when he called to her and she vindicated herself with a desperate look. He was leaning on the wall while glued to such Riona. Ren muttered 「Right」 .

Fortunately the white cloth was long enough and it could wrap around both of them.

「Then, let's sleep together like this. This way both of us will be able to rest calmly you know?」

「Wha, what absurd suggestion!」

「It's fine, it's fine. I won't do anything strange. Sometimes my male or female friend would ask me to sleep together. I'm used to this.」

「Sleeping together!?!」

「Sometimes there are people who will feel lonely when sleeping alone.」

「Rokuhara-san's relationship is a bit too unrestrained!」

Riona said that and separated herself from him. She went to sleep once more, but after a while passed.

「Look. It's better to just sleep together with me like this.」

「This isn't my intention, but this is completely Rokuhara-san's fault! Because there is the impulse that want to forcibly take goshujin-sama's

power by all possible means and my interest toward you——」

「Ah, so you have interest at me.」

「Uuh. My tongue slipped.....」

In the end, Riona who crawled into his blanket once more finally gave up.

She got wrapped in the same cloth with Ren with an expression that was unclear whether she was angry or bewildered. They leaned together on the cave's wall.

「Thi, this is a good chance so I want to confirm something.」

Riona tried to speak calmly in order to suppress her running wild emotion.

「When Rokuhara-san run around using nemesis's retribution authority—you have to be alone. The authority will be unusable when you are together with someone. Isn't that right?」

「It's amazing that you noticed that.」

Ren's eyes opened wide at what the companion on his left side pointed out.

The warmth of Riona in her underwear appearance nestling to him was warming his naked upper body.

「You learned that also because you are connected to me?」

「Yes. If you want to protect your comrade then even without granting the divine protection of retribution knowing the risk—you can just stay close to Princess Cassandra or me.」

「And, if it looks like you two are in danger.....」

「Rokuhara-san can instantly become shield to receive the attack, and activate Nemesis's escaping feet. Like that you can carry your comrade and run away in full speed. If it succeeded then no one will be hurt——. I think

that's really possible. But Rokuhara-san didn't even try that. In other words have you finished confirming that it's impossible?」

「Correct. It's not like I can't do it. But I once had a terrible time because of that.」

The hair of Riona was smooth like silk.

Ren felt that it was pleasant while smiling.

「Julio who got involved at that time gave me his reasoning. The power of retribution in a sense is 『a power to manipulate time』, so we got blown to that kind of place at that time.」

「Time manipulation——. I understand.」

As expected from her. Riona nodded in sharp understanding.

「"An attack with ill will" that happened in the past is manifested and replayed at the present time. That is Nemesis's authority. In addition that escaping feet are.....something like traveling toward the future isn't it?」

「That's the same with Julio's explanation!」

「If I become Yatagarasu, then I too can do something similar. Rokuhara-san's speed when running away isn't increasing. You are shortening "time itself" that is needed to move from point A to point B.」

「That's right. It's a more economical use of energy rather than raising your speed physically.」

「The burden to the body will also be littler that way. And then 『shrinking the travelling time=moving slightly to the future』」

「Yep. It's like I'm arriving slightly at the future faster than other people.」

「.....Nemesis isn't a god that merely fast. She is a goddess who manipulates the karma of human and the world. If Rokuhara-san travel to the future with someone else instead of alone using that authority——two

karmas will be entangled and it will be unknown where you will arrive at.....」

If it was just an authority to move around with super acceleration, such situation wouldn't happen—.

Previously Julio rebuked him like that with a trembling voice.

Toba Riona who arrived at the same conclusion without experiencing that was really incredible.....no. Perhaps she was also sensing something through her connection with Ren.

Ren noticed when he was going to ask her about that.

「Could it be Riona, you want to kiss me?」

「!? The, there is no such thing! It's more like, a dark impulse to drag out godslaying power from inside Rokuhara-san's body to make it mine!」

Ren's pondering face—

Was being approached by Riona's lips when he noticed.

Her lips were slightly opened alluringly, while her eyes were ardently longing for something. Certainly she got the atmosphere of 『a black queen who yearned for power』. But the atmosphere of 『a maiden who was going to yield her body and mind to a passion that couldn't be suppressed』 also could be seen more clearly from her.

「If you're going to apply curse to a godslayer, then it has to be from inside the body. Poseidon also said that!」

「If Riona doesn't mind it, then let's try kissing once for a test. Perhaps by doing that you will feel refreshed and can sleep at ease.」

「I, it's not something to be tested isn't it-」

「Then, it will be nice if there is a way to somehow sever our “connection”. At this rate both me and Riona won't be able to rest. Let's try various

things.」

「Eh?」

Riona was staring blankly in puzzlement while being wrapped in the same cloth with Ren.

「Is Rokuhara-san saying, that you don't need my strength?」

「I extremely need it. But, it's not something that I can keep while ignoring your feeling.」

「A, are you going to give up a weapon that is absolutely essential for the sake of fighting the gods!? Those are unthinkable words coming from a person who killed even god!」

「Haha, I'm not good with shackling other people or getting shackled myself.」

When he honestly spoke what was in his mind, Riona asked back in dismay.

「Why is someone with that personality is speaking about something like political marriage then!?!」

「Isn't it the opposite? It's because I have this kind of personality that I can exert my full strength for the sake of mutual objective and interest of both sides. About the marriage with me even if it's just for appearance's sake—if doing that will be helpful for you, then it won't be any problem for me to accommodate it you know?」

「.....」

「You just need to support me in the mythological world.」

「Mutual interest, is it.....」

Riona seemed to feel something and she muttered.

「I too am worried about the world's future, so I want to do everything that I can. If in the process of that I made use of my connection with the demon king-sama so that I can create an environment that is easy to live in for me—it will be a matter of great congratulation. But, equivalent exchange is also the truth of life. Those who wish for great reward ought to pay the equivalent price.....」

Riona shut her eyes for a moment. Perhaps she was sorting her thought.

「I'm not thinking as far as wanting to win against god. After all god and human aren't at the same level. But I, want to be a supreme existence among the humans. If I can receive the necessary power for that—I won't be reluctant to join hand with Rokuhara-san.」

「Really?」

「Yes. I don't care about stingy small fry. In that regard, Rokuhara-san is someone who will protect the people close to you without taking account of the risk, you will also take a gamble with a nonchalant air..... You are a stupid person but, I also feel that you're an outrageous big shot. So, I'll cast in my lot with you.」

This time, Riona decisively brought her lips closer by her own will and whispered this.

「What does Rokuhara-san think about an engagement for the time being?」

「You and me?」

「Yes. It's a disgrace to run escape using this method but it's useful. Using not a contract marriage but a contract engagement, to have mutual give-and-take relationship should be passable enough I think.....」

「That's a nice idea.」

The contract was formed. Their lips met each other.

Ren was as usual, but Riona was clearly awkward. Her shoulders were tense. But, he certainly felt—something like a breath of life being breathed into him from her lips.

「I think my body feel slightly better.」

「I applied healing magic. Rokuhara-san didn't look like you are fully healed after all.」

「Even though it will be nice if you stop calling me with honorific already.」

「No, no way. After all the matter of the engagement is a secret from Princess Cassandra and Stella for the time being. We should refrain from any suspicious act.」

「Isn't it fine to tell them?」

「We can't-. I'll be embarrassed.」

They slightly separated their lips, put their forehead close, and whispered to each other.

There was no problem with this close distance, so as expected Riona had opened up her heart far more than before. It was to the degree that it wouldn't be strange even if she developed a romantic emotion like this.

However, for now they wanted to sleep.

For the umpteenth time Ren leaned on the cave's wall and closed his eyes.

Riona also did the same right beside him. She placed her head on Rokuhara Ren's shoulder and leaned on him. They were sleeping together bundled within the same cloth.

Was it thanks to their body sticking close to each other, or thanks to the contract exchange?

Riona who was restless before didn't move anymore and the two of them finally were able to indulge in a good sleep.

.

5

A night passed.

The goat chariot that was driven by lightning god Thor was rushing through the early morning sky.

The speed was around the same with the birds that were flapping their wings leisurely. However, they weren't particularly heading to any destination, so this was fine.

「If this me ordered it, then these guys can even fly to the sky!」

Thor spoke boastfully. But, his fellow passengers didn't really react.

They were leaning out from the driver stand to look down on the situation below.

「That fire doesn't show any sign of vanishing!」

「Are Ren-sama and Riona-sama safe.....!?」

The small goddess Stella was vexed while Princess Cassandra spoke in worry.

The surface of the world below was enveloped by flame. It seemed fire was unleashed by the one who murdered demon wolf Fenrir. Or perhaps a valorous warrior of the fire giant race had appeared.

Certainly an uncommon divine power was felt from this flame that assaulted this area.....

「About that Stella. You are feeling that your companion is alive right?」

「Yes. I and Ren are one in body and soul after all, so there is no mistake! That man is undoubtedly within the flame below!」

「However, he should be reduced to ash within that.」

「Thor-sama. I think that the two of them is in a dark place somewhere. Ah, there is no particular reason to this thinking of mine though-」

The beautiful princess Cassandra was also hesitantly speaking just like Stella.

With that it clicked. Underground Midgard where the humans lived and Jotunheim where the giants lived—the underground world Nidavellir.

It was a world where the dwarves and black elves were living.

「Stella. Do you have estimate for the general position of your other half?」

「Eh.....yes. If it's only in general」

「Good. In that case, point the direction to me! Let's go you guys!」

In the next instant, the chariot of lightning god Thor turned into light along with its passengers.

It became light and descended to the ground, cutting across the sea of flame. The miraculous lightning—deeply gouged the layer of the ground and reached until the depths of the earth.

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It was unclear how much time passed since she slept together with Rokuhara Ren.

The sun couldn't be seen inside the underground cave. She couldn't guess the time. Riona looked around with sleepy eyes.

Goshujin-sama was right beside her. He was sticking firmly on Riona.

The two of them were wrapped in one cloth. They were sharing their warmth to each other while resting all this time. Rokuhara Ren was still sleeping.

It couldn't be helped. After all the burden was largely on him.

Riona was staring at her goshujin-sama's sleeping face with a gentle gaze which was out of character for her.

It was at that timing, a thunderous sound *GOuuuuuuuNN!* resounded from somewhere. It rumbled even until the rock and ceiling were crumbling *clatter clatter clatter clatter-!*

「Oo, found them!」

It was a youthful voice that she had heard before. The voice of lightning god Thor.

Shockingly the ceiling was smashed down and a chariot that was clad in lightning slowly descended.

「So you're safe, bird girl! —Oh?」

「I'm really glad Riona-sama! —Eh?」

A great amount of rocks were falling from the ceiling. The impact caused a gust of wind.

Because of that the cloth slipped down. The white cloth on Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona that were used as blanket was.....

That was why, she couldn't even hide her unbecoming appearance.

Riona who was only wearing cherry blossom lingerie and her goshujin-sama whose upper body was naked were sleeping while embracing each other—it was truly a scandalous sight.

And then, Rokuhara Ren opened his eyes at this late hour.

「Eehh? Thor and Stella and Cassandra.....everyone, why are you all here?」

「I, it's us who want to ask the situation, Ren!?!」

The mini goddess-sama roughened her voice toward Ren who was still half asleep.

Riona was thinking during that time. No, at this point it was already useless no matter what kind of excuse she tried to say. There was a limit in even being disgraceful. She was Toba Riona. Even if it was just her being prideful or vain, she wanted to scare “everyone out of their wits” here as much as possible. In a brilliant way.

That was why, Riona smiled gracefully.

While secretly thinking in her mind that it would be great if this situation could appear to look like the aftermath of a love scene from a drama that was rated R-15.

「Everyone, you have come in a good timing.」

Riona softly spoke with unparalleled elegance if she said so herself.

「Actually, I and Rokuhara-san has gotten engaged with each other just now. I humbly wish to inform everyone of that.」

「I.....is that so!?!」

「Wha-wha- wha- wha- what did you sayyy!?!」

Princess Cassandra was struck with admiration, while Stella was shrieking.

On the other hand Thor was looking bewildered. The two mountain goats Tanngrisnir and Tanngnjostir were neighing *meeeeee-* easily.

And then, Rokuhara Ren was only smiling vaguely and yet magnanimously.

Chapter 5 – Ragnarok's Winter

1

The snow was rapidly piling up.

The surprising amount of snow was falling down from the dark cloudy sky.

「Even though it was a nice weather of autumn just some time ago, it suddenly became a snow country now.」

Ren said while staring at the snowy landscape that nearly only had white color.

Beside him the princess of Troia was making a praise with sparkling eyes.

「This is my first time seeing this many snow piling up!」

「Cassandra is someone from a warm country after all.」

Three days had passed since the confrontation with Marquis Voban.

They were in the middle of crossing across the wasteland of giant country on a goat chariot to return to the human country Midgard.

But, powdered snow was sprinkling the land since yesterday morning. Even so they continued to keep the chariot running, and yet the weather became a really heavy snowfall when evening came.

There Ren and co took refuge in a nearby residence.

Well, in Japanese's sense it was just a simple house of three buildings that looked like row house being lined up. It seemed giant were living there until recently, but now it was empty. Most likely they went to attack Midgard.

They stayed the night there to take shelter from the snow, and at the morning—.

When they tried going out to the house's frontage, there was a snowscape everywhere.

A lot of snow fell from the branches and leaves of the trees growing around, making *thud* sound sometimes.

Furthermore, the snowfall still wasn't over.

But there was a small mercy. A lot of kindling was stocked in the residence.

And then, there was no floor laid out at the middle of a hall with the ground bared. They could lid fire there. It seemed to be a primitive hearth.

They vigorously burned the kindling there to warm themselves.

「I hope that Thor-sama won't get cold.」

「He even had that kind of flint, so he surely won't be troubled about making fire.」

Last night Thor went out to take a look at other place.

He flew away like a superhero toward the snowy night sky alone.

By the way there wasn't any problem like 『the door was too big it couldn't be opened』 in this giant's residence. It seemed that people with similar height like Ren and co were living here.

According to Riona,

『The giant of Norse mythology is a really lackadaisical existence. Their size too, some are big like Ultraman, while there are also giants who are just a little bigger than human or around the same height like human』 It seemed.

『That's not a giant anymore.』

『There are also a lot of giants who married with the gods and gave birth to children. It seems that biologically they aren't that different from god. In the end there is only rough definition of those who allied themselves with "Odin and his faction" are god, while the neutral and the hostile are "giants without exception".』

Riona spoke a surprising fact when he retorted to her.

—*Byuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu-!*

The wind that was mixed with snow was getting stronger. It was the same like when the wolf slayer marquis summoned snowy wind, the weather was turning into a blizzard.

Ren and co were feeling really cold just from getting gout a bit to the frontage.

「Ren-sama-. The fingers of my hand cannot move really well!」

Cassandra was raised at the warm climate of Mediterranean sea.

Even though she was an active princess who would go outside the palace casually, there was no way she was used to the fingers of her limbs getting numb from cold. Ren nodded.

「I'm also the same. It will be helpful if the snow at least stop. We will be able to create ski or sleigh to play in the snow like that.」

「My. I don't really understand but that sound really fun. But」

Cassandra looked interested hearing about playing in the snow.

However, her expression immediately became clouded.

「I don't think that we and this world—will have the leeway to do something like that.」

「Uwaa」

A distrust toward Cassandra who was looking down in sadness was welling up inside Ren's heart.

He thought while ignoring that with his willpower. In other words, the cursed prophet of Troia was informing him of the future right now.

「Let's try consulting with Riona. I think she is beside the fire.」

「Ah, yes.」

「Wait a second Ren-. Are you are intending to be lecherous with her again? Let me say this as someone who is sharing her life with you, I ask that you keep it in more moderation in front of me-」

Stella suddenly popped out on his left shoulder.

She must be feeling cold with her usual goddess outfit. She was wearing an adorable pink cape. There was fur at the coat's edge. And then, her expression was really grim.

「I won't. I'm not going to be lecherous just from meeting a “fiancée” you know?」

Ren calmly smiled at his small partner who was being cranky.

「We were separated before this but, normally we are together around the clock anyway.」

「Be, be quiet you-. Listen! Know that something like a fiancée that is decided without even consulting me is even less valuable than a tattered rag! Furthermore the fiancée is that bird girl!」

「She is a girl who is wasted on someone like me isn't it?」

「Kiiiiiih! What's with that needless comment that doesn't even need to be said-. Princess too, say something as my maid!」

「I, I am thinking, that.....perhaps the two of them are really well-matched with each other.....」

Although she was ordered by the small goddess, Cassandra was unusually not responding honestly.

She couldn't meet the gaze of both Stella and Ren while chewing her words in hesitation. When he was moving to enter the house with them who were like that,

「Ren-sama, that!」

Cassandra pointed toward the snowy sky.

There was a large man who was flying this way. He was carrying a hammer and fully equipped with feathered helmet and chainmail. His mantel was flapping from the strong wind. Of course it was the lightning god Thor.





「I went around looking everywhere in Midgard but, the snow is terrible anywhere!」

The fire in the heart was burning with popping sound. Thor was grumbling beside it.

He was holding a large wooden mug. The drink that was filling it to the brim was beer that the lightning god brought from somewhere. He emptied the mug in an instant.

Everyone was sitting in a circle at the hall that had fur laid out on the floor.

「I thought that there would still be a bit more time before winter. This year the snow piled up really quickly.Oo, right right. I'll give you this to celebrate for your engagement.」

「Thank you very much, Thor.」

He presented a simple jar with earthen color.

Riona accepted it with a wide—and extremely graceful smile.

「This is a mead that is even stronger than the alcohol I gave you before. In exchange, the effect is also even more amazing. There is no present more useful than this for man and woman who will soon marry. Uwahaha」

「Fufufufu. I'm looking forward to it. Isn't that so Rokuhara-san?」

「I guess so. Perhaps we should use it right away later, just kidding.」

「My. Even though everyone is listening, what a vulgar goshujin-sama.」

When Ren casually made a joke, Riona also kept in tune with him.

Unlike before where she would call out to him with sarcasm mixed in, she was cuddling close right beside Ren while saying 『goshujin-sama』 with a bit of coquettish atmosphere.

On the other hand, there was also a goddess who was looking like she was grinding her teeth.

「Fu, fufufufu..... This bird girl whose mind is rose colored, isn't this wonderful.....-」

Stella who was the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite.

She relinquished her usual adorableness and raised the corner of her eyes.

「It look like you are forgetting about that beast and also the danger approaching this sanctuary.....!」

「Danger to the sanctuary you say? What do you mean Stella?」

「Answer him princess. Something is being displayed in your eyes that are seeing through the future isn't it?」

Stella who was asked by Thor directed the talk toward Cassandra haughtily.

The princess of Troia who was always calm and carefree in front of Ren and co. However, this time it felt like her mind wasn't here and she ignored the goddess's command. It was while she was sending glances at Ren and Riona who were snuggling close to each other.

「Princess!」

「Ye, yes. My deepest apologies-」

「Stella. It's cruel to ask that from Princess Cassandra.」

Riona cut in. She was smiling terribly gracefully.

That smile was endowed with the composure of a queen and the elegance like a mistress who ruled over the royal court.

「I have an idea regarding the future that the princess is worrying about. Now I will talk about matter that seems to be related so.....if I happen to be wrong then please deny it.」

「Ye, yes.」

Ren was secretly impressed before the exchange of the girls.

Riona who did the 『engagement announcement』 as though it was nothing became defiant and displayed a surprising acting ability or perhaps human ability. It was interesting.

「The summer won't arrive. The winter will continue for more than three years. The stars vanish from the sky, the land shook, and the sea water surge toward the land. The captured monsters will all get released and finally the giants of flame attack—. This is the twilight of the gods.....」

「.....」

Cassandra didn't say any words at Riona's solemn recital.

And then, the lightning god Thor who was lending her his hear was knitting his eyebrows before anyone noticed.

「O witch of bird of fire. Isn't that sounding like the oracle that a priestess from somewhere once told to the king of Asgard?」

Another voice commented when Thor said that inquisitively.

「Indeed.」

It was a voice—that sounded thoughtful and old.

Ren, lightning god Thor, Riona, Stella, Cassandra. Everyone here was taken aback and stared at the owner of the new voice.

「I also think so. If you can, please let me listen to the detail, o child of man.」

Deeper in the hall, there was an old man sitting on a chair who was speaking those words.

He had entered until this place without anyone, not even Thor noticing.

He was wearing a grey robe with many creases and a hat with wide brim. Ren thought that he looked like a wizard. However.

When he thought that the thing leaning on his right shoulder was a cane—it was actually a spear.

The wooden handle that seemed to be from a shaved branch of ash tree had several letters that seemed to be sorcery symbol carved on it. It had a sharp steel tip attached.

The old man's left eye was crushed, perhaps he lost it from a battle where he wielded this spear.

「Oo, my father king of Asgard, and also the father of all warriors Odin! For what reason you descended to this house!？」

Thor called out to the one-eyed old man who looked like a wizard.

And then, Riona seemed to be excited by the entrance of a new god and leaned forward.

「If you are Odin, then I have a request. Will you come along with us in a brief journey?」

「Until where?」

「Just nearby.....until the end of Midgard.」

「What a coincidence. Actually I'm also thinking to guide all of you to the same place.But, this will be a journey that demands the swiftness of whirlwind. It's better to travel light.」

Odin talked while giving a glance toward Cassandra.

「I will call someone here to pick up the princess over there. She can come to my palace ahead of us. Now, let's move with haste. Son. And then the daughter of Heimdallr and—young man who break off relations with Heimdallr despite being a child of man. Let us swiftly embark for a trip!」

Ren didn't know the meaning of the name Heimdallr.

But, perhaps it was the name of the ancestor of 『human』. He somehow thought that. After all the gaze that Odin directed toward Rokuhara Ren was terribly meaningful.

.

2

A cliff was stretching along the sea.

The cliff that was extremely steep was extending through more than ten kilometers. It was what people called rias coastline in modern Japanese.

But, this place was the mythological world Sanctuary Midgard.

And then, it was the gigantic land—continent's extreme end.

Yesterday they flew away from the house they were staying at toward the sky, headed straight to the east, and finally they arrived at this place.

「So this place is the end of this land. We arrived really easily here.」

While looking across the far away ocean from above the cliff—

Ren and Riona whispered to each other. The ride of the soaring gods brought them until here in just two or three hours.

The chariot of lightning god Thor that was pulled by two goats.

And then the black horse with eight legs Sleipnir. It gave a ride to Odin who was wearing wizard-like garment and sprinted in the air.

The horse's body was larger, heroic, and sturdier compared to any thoroughbred horses on earth.

「But, as I thought.....the snow is also falling even at the end of the land.」

Riona spoke gloomily.

Even above the cliff along the coastline—was snowy landscape.

The snow wasn't blowing violently in this area. There was also no wind. The snow was silently falling to above the cliff and the ocean and broke apart. But, it was piling up by a lot.

Ren and Riona had changed into leather boots in preparation of the snow.

「So Riona. What is it that you want to see together with us?」

Thor spoke with a puzzled look. However.

Unlike the simpleminded lightning god, the old god Odin muttered with a knowing look.

「Most likely it's that thing.」

SPLASHHHHH-!

The sea water suddenly swelled up right under the cliff.

During dozens of seconds, a terrifyingly thick—"white thing" that looked like a pole could be glimpsed.

Perhaps even an island for example could be placed on the top of that extremely thick pole. That was how thick, long, and large it was.....it was flaccidly bending in a big way.

SPLASHHHHH-!

The mysterious white object wriggled its rod shaped figure while vanishing into the sea.

「Just now, what came out from the sea」

Ren's eyesight was good. He not only able to look until far away, his dynamic vision was also outstanding.

That was why he asked like this without thinking that he saw wrongly.

「Was that a stupidly huge fish that can even swallow an island? It looks like its whole length is more than 800 meter. Its body surface is shining like sparkling scales.」

「That's too bad, Rokuhara-san. That is a 『snake』 .」

「Snake!」

「It's coiling around this whole island.....it's a superdreadnought big snake. Its name is Jormundgandr. It's also called as the world snake.」

Riona indifferently taught the taken aback Ren.

「It's said that when the end of the world 《Ragnarok》 that carry out the annihilation of almost all the old gods of Norse mythology arrive, the snake just now will climb to the land along with the sea water.....and cause a great flood.」

「Damn it, that cursed monster snake!」

The hot blooded man Thor raised a curse.

「Even though it's not even the arrival of Ragnarok, it's squirming boldly like this! I'll discipline it a bit and chase it back to the bottom of the sea!」

「.....Isn't it warming up because the end is near?」

「What?」

Thor was taken aback at what Riona said.

And then, this time Odin suddenly opened his mouth.

「O children of man, I will act as the guide next. Actually there is also another omen.」

.

Ragnarok. The end of the world. The twilight of the gods.

Ren took out his favorite notebook. He took a memo just in case.

「The total war between the gods and giants..... Riona said that before.」

The goat chariot started dashing in the snowing sky once more.

Ren and Riona were behind Thor who was taking the rein. It was already their standard positioning.

「Yes. There are various opinions regarding the detail of the war but, in short giants and monsters will come attacking from everywhere, while the gods of Norse mythology will become united and meet their attack. The world snake Jormundgand just now will cause a great flood. And the finale is the burning of the whole world by extra large flame.」

「So flood will also happen at a great war where it's an all-star gathering.....」

Ren muttered.

「It's a bit similar with Trojan War.」

「They are a same type of myth at the point of a combination of flood legend and Armageddon after all. But, Ragnarok might be superior at the flashiness of the event.」

「Even my heroic son Thor will also die in that great war.」

Odin spoke. He was straddling the divine horse Sleipnir.

A deep blue ocean was spreading below them. It was the northern sea where sometimes there would be even drifting ice.

「He and the world snake Jormungand will strike down each other. While suffering from poison he.....」

「If you're saying that then father yourself! Your fate is to be bitten to death by that cursed Fenrir!」

「.....Like that, most of the gods of the ancient time will die in Ragnarok. Only few gods will survive and the creation of a new era will begin.」

When Riona was speaking htat.

Even though they were in midair, they could hear the voice of a young female.

「Father!」 「Odin-sama!」

Looking there, female warriors riding on soaring divine horses were——waiting in front of them.

「Aren't they the valkyrie ladies?」

「They are chief god Odin's direct.....royal guard and also lady attendant. There is also Odin's daughter among their member.」

Riona taught Ren who noticed them.

The leader of the war maiden valkyrie was pointing her short spear to “below” and spoke to her lord.

「Please look. The “ship of death” Naglfar finally show itself.」

「Hrm.」

Odin nodded above Sleipnir.

The overly deep blue of the ocean spreading below them looked really cold. It was even more so because snow was heavily falling from the sky.

And then, there was a “sailing ship” advancing through this ocean. However.

「Amazing. It's so big like a tanker.....」

Ren was astonished. It was unbelievably long and large. It felt like it would be possible to do 100 meter sprint on the deck. Riona also nodded.

「Rather we might have to call it as aircraft carrier instead. That ship is boarded by the frost giants and the army of the dead at the time of Ragnarok and come to attack the land.」

「That is also a main character of the final war!?!」

Certainly, it was a worthy—impressive ship.

Although it was a huge ship at superdreadnought class, it should be made from wood thinking of the culture level here. But, the “ship of death” Naglfar’s frame was created from a mysterious smooth material.

It was eerily bluish black. It felt like a chill was running on his back just from seeing it.

「According to the legend, it’s made from the nail of the dead.」

「Uwaa」

「Argh, the gloomy bunch is coming out! O iron hammer of Mjolnir!」

Thor yelled and strongly threw his favorite hammer.

The handle was short that it could only be grasped by one hand. But, this hammer was clad in lightning and roared thunderously while flying in a straight line toward the deck of the giant ship Naglfar.

The aim was at the area of the ship’s bow—the old man who seemed to be the helmsman.

He was clad in a long garment and his appearance was frail. However, a round shield suddenly appeared on his hand.

GOuuuuuuuuNN!

The lightning clad hammer directly impacted the old man.

But, the old man was protected by the shield he held up and he was unharmed.

The giant ship was also continuing to sail leisurely. The master of the ship glanced at Thor who was far above the sky and sneered.....

「Stop it son. The giant Hrym and the ship of death aren't easy prey that can be brought down with an impulsive attack. It doesn't matter how many lightning you call or how powerful your strength is.」

「Ununununu-」

Thor gritted his teeth at Odin's admonition.

The flying hammer returned to the lightning god's hand without bringing any result. Even during that the overly huge sailing ship was advancing through the snowing ocean and it was gone from sight.....

Right after that. Ren felt an ominous presence and looked at the horizon.

「That's, don't tell me it's aurora!?!」

The horizon at far away—was burning red.

The sky that was stretching on the ocean was completely covered with crimson flame.

Aurora, which was 『a phenomenon of light radiation in the atmosphere that occurred near the Arctic and Antarctica』. This was similar to that. It was like a curtain of flame.

「That's the flame of the giant Surtr.」

Odin who was also a god of omniscience lamented.

「The great giant who will burn the whole world to ash with the sword of flame at Ragnarok—he must be swinging his sword outside this Midgard.」

The giant and sword of flame. Ren was taken aback by those words.

「.....Surtr is coming to attack from the south bringing fire with him. The sun will be dyed black, and the land will sink into the sea. The glittering stars will fall—flame, flame that blaze up high is licking the sky.」

The spear wielding wandering god announced heavily.

「Most likely, the destruction of the world is near.」

.

3

Over there was a world of scorching heat.

There was almost no flower or tree growing there. The land only had growing hot rocks that would give burn just from touching them. It was a scorching region of intense heat.

The land of scorching heat was emitting crackling sparks without end.

Furthermore, there were even flame pillars blowing out everywhere, grandly scorching the sky. There was no river, in exchange boiling magma was flowing.

.....Nine worlds were being placed on the 『branches』 of the world tree Yggdrasil.

This “world of flame” Muspelheim was also one of them. The land of scorching heat that was located at the lowest level. There was an immense tear at the end of this land.

The bottom and the other side of the tear couldn't be seen.

「Are you the so called giant of flame?」

Marquis Voban calmly asked without paying any mind toward the intense heat.

A giant whose whole body was pitch black was standing right beside the tear.

His body that was so big it could grapple with even that giant wolf Fenrir right from the front was clad in flame. His body was flaring up hotly from the top of his head until the tip of his toes.

The facial features of his face were becoming shadow that couldn't be seen. He also didn't wear any outfit or armor.

However Voban was sure. If this man wasn't the flame giant Surtr, the one who would bring the end of the world, than who else could it be?

A sword that was equal with the huge body of the giant Surtr—was stabbed on the ground in front of him.

It was a great sword that had to be swung with both hands. The blade was dazzlingly red hot, magnificently displaying the magic power of the flame dwelling inside it.

00000000000000000000.....

Surtr let out a groan. It was like the bellowing of a storm that shook the heavens.

「Fuh..... So you realize that I'm the person who snatched away Fenrir's role.」

Voban guessed the meaning of the groan and chuckled.

Muspel

He also learned the language of fire giant during his journey in the Norse mythology.

「Let me teach you. My gain in battle isn't just from Fenrir. I murdered the god of dark sorcery Baphomet, I murdered the three gods of storm of the far east—Fuhaku, Ushi, and Raikou, and also murdered the god of fire Shukuyu. Recently I also buried the protector of oracle Gordias with this hand.I have confidence that I am the most capable person as someone who change the plot of myth.」

Voban talked with arrogant confidence.

「It seems to be slightly early than the plan of all of you but, Ragnarok—I think it's not a problem even if you cause disturbance any time now. This

sanctuary is greatly disturbed by my victory. You will easily obtain victory if you take advantage of it.」

0000000000000000.....

Surtr who was clad in flame shook the scorching atmosphere once more with his groan.

And then, he suddenly—pulled out the sword that was stabbed on the ground. *BUN-!* He excitedly swung it around. In that instant,

Tremendous world-destroying conflagration blew out from the sword's tip.

It rushed toward the sky like a rising dragon, covering the surface of the sky with explosive flame.

Above the head of Voban and Surtr, the crimson flame——occupied the whole starry sky like the radiance of aurora that was coloring the night sky of the polar region.

00000000000000000000.....

「Hou. This flame reach even until the height of the moon, sun, and stars. Everyone living in this world tree Yggdrasil surely is seeing this—」

The godslaying wolf smiled hearing the voice of the giant Surtr.

「So you declared war with that single stroke just now. You have quite a good taste, my friend.」

Also, Voban himself wasn't bothered at all by the heat.

The chill of furious blizzard that he wielded in Midgard—he covered his own body with that and maintained it all the time he was traveling until here.

The wound of his body was also completely healed by the overly tough vitality of godslayer.

His preparation was complete with this gathering of ally.

「Kukukuku. With this Ragnarok can begin anytime.」

Naturally the target that he ought to finish off as Fenrir's substitute was—the chief god Odin.

Freely controlling the spear of Gungnir and the sorcery of rune, with the dead heroes accompanying him. There wouldn't be any complain even if he was called as the supreme and strongest god of Norse mythology.

But, most likely.

There would be a need to take care of his young colleague before facing Odin.

It should become two consecutive battles that would make his heart greatly danced.

.

4

Ren and Riona, Thor and Odin, then more than ten valkyries.

Everyone was riding flying ride and flew toward the west this time.

「I'm feeling it. The sign of Ragnarok.」

Odin was lamenting above the soaring divine horse Sleipnir.

Thor's goat chariot was running in parallel right beside it. As usual Ren and Riona were also riding together with him.

「The impetus was, yes, the release of Fenrir. That wolf was captured for long time. However, he will be released at the same time with Ragnarok's arrival. That should be his fate, and yet.....because a single human released Fenrir, the sequence became reversed.」

Odin who was also a god of wisdom asserted.

「The time of Ragnarok was advanced along with Fenrir's release.」

「It'll be better still if it's the giants, but you're saying that it was the frail human who did it? Impossible!」

「No. That person is a godslayer.」

Thor spat out his words. In response his father shook his head.

「A demon king who murdered many gods and usurped their sacred authority. That person possessed a type of authority that 『change the determined fate』 and liberated Fenrir—before killing him.」

「That's.....」

「The fate and authority of that terrifying demon wolf right now is.....in that godslayer's possession. The role to kill me also belong to that person now.」

「But」

Ren gauged the timing to cut in and opened his mouth here.

He exchanged a meaningful gaze with the chief god of Norse who was flying right beside him while,

「For example, if this me——can defeat the substitute of Fenrir or chase him away, will the battle of Ragnarok get suspended?」

「.....Perhaps it will.」

Odin received Ren's gaze straightforwardly and smiled.

「However, that person is outrageously strong you know?」

「For that, I'll take my chance and manage it somehow. And, if you don't mind, it will be really helpful if you can lend me a hand though.」

「Wait wait! Your name is Ren isn't it? Don't say anything strange when you're just a human!」

「So you haven't noticed yet, my son.」

Thor was flustered. But his father spoke with detachment.

「That human is also a godslayer. Someone who bring in great change and disaster to our sanctuary.」

「Whaatt!?!」

「But.....I can see that the one who killed Fenrir also has a different plan.」

Odin stared at Ren with the stern face of a veteran warrior.

He was the one eyed god. But, the strength of the gaze dwelling inside that one eye might cause even the dead to spring up from great fear.

Under that gaze, with his usual attitude Ren—smiled easygoingly.

「If this mythological world is destroyed, our world will also feel its negative influence. Perhaps, no, surely even our place will.....」

「Ragnarok, the end of the world will begin there. That's why, we are sharing the same lot together here.」

Riona continued Ren's words smoothly.

She did so while meaningfully staring at Ren's face from the side. Ren realized. She was also knowing about "that matter". It must be transmitted to her through the aforementioned connection. In that case,

Ren exchanged a glance. Riona immediately spoke.

「This Rokuhara-san, my goshujin-sama isn't a decent person at all, but. He isn't that crazy.....that he want to fight formidable enemy so much he won't care even if the world he is living at is destroyed.」

「Kukukuku. So you mean to subdue a poison using another poison, child of man.」

「Yep」 「Yes」

The two Japanese replied together. Ren winked at his 『fiancé』 who complemented him. Riona shrugged. And then the old god Odin made a suggestive smile.

「Very well. I've also ascertained this accursed godslayer's disposition. Betting on my single eye that obtained every wisdom, let us form a temporary alliance.Well」

Odin said with slight cynicism.

「Till the end this is only for this time. If all of you are staying for long in this sanctuary, it will only call in a different kind of destruction to here—that's what I believe!」

It was at that time.

A rainbow could be seen on the sky in front of them. Riona yelled.

「The rainbow bridge Bifrost! At the other side of it is the divine world of Norse mythology Asgard!」

There was a 『sky island』 ahead of the seven colored rainbow that was drawing an arc.

It wasn't floating. It was being supported by 『tree branch』 that stretched from the sky beyond toward the heaven. It was an absurdly long, big, and thick branch.

The island that was located in this sky was above the branch of world tree Yggdrasil—.

It was a beautiful land even seen from afar. The green field, blue lake, mountain that was dyed with autumn color, magnificent palace. But, the snow that announced the end was also falling on it.....

.

「The night has come. The time of battle is near. Godslayer-dono and fiancé-dono can rest in my mansion until then.」

Ren arrived at a great palace with the invitation from the master of Asgard.

He whispered with Riona in front of the radiant gorgeousness.

「This place really has a gorgeous atmosphere. As expected from Odin-san's palace.」

「It feel all the more like that because this time we were going around secluded regions before this.」

The place's height was around five or six floors high. It felt like it had been a long time since they saw a building this big.

The size was worthy to be called as 『castle』 even in the sense of modern human. In Sanctuary Midgard with its simplistic and vigorous style, even a building that was like row house was categorized as a stately mansion.

And then the roof of the castle was—shining gold.

「Eh, it doesn't look like roof tile but, what is the thing lined up there?」

「The white birch roof of Odin's residence has golden shield covering its surface.」

The sparkling thing at the roof certainly had roundness like a shield.

And then, the door for entering into the palace was so high even a giant that was taller than ten meter could go through it without difficulty. The width of the door was also wide.

The two of them were guided to inside while the building's owner Odin said.

「Welcome, guests. This is the palace of Valhalla.」

「^{Valfodr}「「「Oo, the father of warrior and the father of gods Odin!」」」」

More than a hundred brawny warriors were assembled in a hall that they entered.

They were making lighthearted talk while relaxing. There were also many people who were holding alcohol cup or alcohol jar, but as soon as they saw the chief god Odin, Thor, and the valkyries, they raised their voices simultaneously.

Odin turned aside the cheers magnanimously. It was then,

「Ren-sama, Riona-sama, I've been waiting!」

「Cassandra!」

A graceful beautiful girl stepped forward from the crowd.

Ren smiled at the unharmed state of the princess of Troia who was running toward them.

But, it wasn't just the lovely prophet who was approaching them. There was a young man wearing beautiful silver chainmail and red mantel. Furthermore he was a radiantly handsome man.

「O wolf of the war Odin. I have arrived in respond to your invitation.」

「It's good that you come, Freyr. The general who commanded the gods.」

The handsome god who gave his greeting wasn't carrying any weapon despite wearing full equipment.

A surprisingly long thing that seemed to be 『antler』 was hanging on his waist with a leather strap fixing it in place. It looked as though it was a replacement for a long sword.

Next after God Freyr, a burly young man who had a rustic look came.

「.....」

「Good that you come my son. O owner of valor that is second after your big brother Thor, Vidar.」

「.....」

The young man who seemed to be Odin's family member cracked a smile but didn't say anything.

He seemed to be a god who was really reticent. But he was wearing helmet and chainmail, and holding a sword. His war preparation was complete.

The people gathered at Valhalla Palace were already prepared for war.

「.....But, a gathering of the gods cannot be said to be a good thing by all means.」

Odin grumbled at the corner of the great hall. Riona nodded.

「Does everyone doesn't believe of Ragnarok's arrival just as expected?」

「Indeed. Originally there should be three years without summer, where snow and winter will be continuously blowing furiously for three years. Ragnarok will be after that. The humans will forget any meaning of friendship and morality. Blood relatives will kill each other and they will commit immorality.....there was such prophecy.」

「Then father!」

Lightning god Thor talked vigorously.

「I will fly at once to visit every single god of Aesir clan and Vanir clan and drag them all until Valhalla!」

「You can't. Let's leave that role to the valkyries.」

Odin ordered prudently.

「O the one who bring grieve to the wives of the giants Thor. You head to the rainbow bridge Bifrost and stand guard together with the sharp eyed Heimdall. If there any enemy approaching——」

「Right, I will smash them! I understand father!」

As expected from the hot blooded man, Thor immediately flew out from the great hall.

Also, a lavish drinking party was going on at the surrounding. Several long tables were brought in. Large plates with mostly meat dishes were heartily lined up there.

There was also fish dish, but it was 『meat』 that stood out.

Pork, beef, chicken, boar, lamb, deer, goat. Grilled meat, stewed meat, boiled meat, raw meat, meat, meat, meat.

And then uncountable number of wine barrel, wine jar, pot of alcohol—.

It was the warriors, not the gods who were drinking hard as though they were bathing in alcohol.

Several hundred of Einherjars. The war maiden Valkyries walked through battlefield and invited the 『deceased warriors』 to under Odin.

They heartily laughed, drank, sang, argued, and sometimes even got into fist fight. They also drew out their sword.

The table of Ren and others was at a corner far from that noisiness.

「The party is a bit.....no, it's really lacking in elegance.」

「Stella-sama-. If you like, please have this!」

The small goddess who materialized after quite long was scowling.

Cassandra who was treated as maid quickly presented her with a bowl that had fruits in the variety of apple and berry heaped in it. But, before that Ren signaled her with his gaze.

(I think this is a nice timing. I'll count on you.)

(Well, it also doesn't look like there won't be any more war matter to talk about than this.)

A conversation using wisdom was the domain of Riona and Odin as expected—.

He was acting reserved together with Stella but, now was the right time. Ren boldly spoke.

「Hey Odin-san. I'm going to fight against my colleague」

「I humbly request the divine god of this foreign country. With great respect I beg you if you can be so kind to bestow any weapon or magical item to this lowly Rokuhara Ren who will fight against the godslaying beast.....」

Stella also snugly got on the table and intermediated.

The belt that was wrapped around the waist of the bowing small goddess was shining in rose color. It was the authority Circle of Friendship. Odin nodded with a dignified face.

「Very well. Vidar, come here.」

「.....」

「O young godslayer. I will entrust this person's shoes to you.」

The younger brother of Thor who was called, the god Vidar took off the leather shoes he was wearing.

The sole of the shoes was thick, it even looked like it was made from iron. The reticent owner stared at Ren and cracked a smile 「.....」. In that case,

「Then I won't hold back. Hee. It's unexpectedly light!」

Ren took off his sneaker and tried on the “god shoes”.

Even though the sole of the shoes should be hard like iron, it was light like feather. It felt like he was barefoot. Odin spoke in satisfaction.

「I will be killed by Fenrir in Ragnarok. But, my son Vidar is fated to take revenge for me right after that. He will trample down the jaw of the wolf with those magical shoes.....」

「I see. Then」

Tap tap. Ren tapped his right toes on the floor and checked the lightness.

「I will take revenge in the place of your son, ah no, if I win against my “godslaying senior” before Odin-san is killed—then fate will change!」

「Indeed. And then the path of Ragnarok will also change. That’s what I’m feeling.」

It was Odin’s declaration as a god of wisdom. Odin asserted so.

.

5

More than 800 dead warriors were living at Valhalla Palace——

That was the info from Riona's tour guide.

「From what we saw just now, their livelihood is amazingly lavish. There are 550 gates in the rampart protecting the palace. The warriors will be able to depart to the front all at once when battle break out.」

That was how extravagant and spacious this place was.

Rokuhara Ren and his comrades were also given a guest room for each of them. Not only Riona and Cassandra, but even the small Stella too.

「It's already late tonight, let's prepare for the decisive game tomorrow. Everyone, good night.」

「Yes. Rest well everyone.」

Ren yawned while Riona withdrew to her room with a demure smile.

Cassandra and Stella saw them off. The two women with Greek mythology origin. The silver haired princess of Troia bowed and said.

「I will also take my leave——Stella-sama!?!」

「You are coming along with me-. There is something that I wish to ascertain for a bit!」

Stella popped on Cassandra's left shoulder with instant teleportation.

The small goddess of beauty and love ordered the surprised princess with a grim face.

「Hide at that corner over there. Be careful so that you won't get found out!」

「Ye, yes-」

The guest rooms of the four were side by side of each other. If they went to the corner of the corridor slight ahead and hid there while secretly peeking out—they would be able to look over each door at the same time.

「Pardon me, how long we are going to be here.....?」

「Shh! Be quiet. Ah, it's just as I thought, that bird girl——!」

Click. One of the doors opened.

Toba Riona came out. She was only wearing the thin nightwear that was prepared in Valhalla Palace. Her footsteps were feeble. However.

She entered into the neighboring room without hesitation. Into the room where Rokuhara Ren should be staying at.....

「Kiih! That bird girl, she is going to Ren again!」

Stella spat out her words with vexation that almost made her gritted her teeth.

「That Ren, after the mention about this betrothal nonsense he said something like 『As I thought let's sleep separately at night』. I thought it was strange and now.....!」

「I wonder what is Riona-sama going to do in Ren-sama's room? As I thought it must be to plan for the battle——」

「Stupid! It's obvious what are a man and a woman going to do when they are alone with each other at night isn't it!?」

「?」

Cassandra couldn't comprehend the reason of Stella getting angry and watched her in puzzlement.

.

The world of Norse mythology had simplistic and vigorous style.

The houses they were staying at until now had no furniture worth mentioning.

The stylish furniture of Nordic countries that modern people knew was like a lie. The most people here had was a small shelf on the wall or simple chair and table.

But, as expected from this place, the palace of Valhalla.

Inside the splendid room that was made from stone, it had chair, table, wardrobe, and a bed that could double as bench. It possessed arrangement so that the guest wouldn't be inconvenienced.

All the furniture was made from wood. The simplistic design made them to be deeply tasteful instead.

Fire was blazing with crackling sound at the old style fireplace that was made in sunken hearth style.

It would be dangerous to use fire while sleeping, but the flame here was amazingly a magic flame. They were told that no fire accident would occur even if the flame was left alone.

Thanks to that, he could indulge in having a good sleep inside a warm room after so long.....

And so Rokuhara Ren was sleeping while being snugly wrapped in blanket. But,

Rustle rustle. *Rustle rustle*. Someone came.

「.....Riona?」

The girl who slipped into his blanket was his engagement partner.

Riona seemed to be half asleep. Her eyes weren't fully opened. She sneaked in with this state that was like sleepwalking. But, Ren's question surprised her and she returned to her senses.

「.....Go, good morning, Rokuhara-san.」

「It's still late at night you know? So you come at my place still half asleep again.」

「Thi, this isn't fully my fault-. The connection with Rokuhara-san is causing bad impulse in my subconscious!」

Riona had leaned on him before he noticed it.

Her lips were getting closer to Ren's neck. She was on the verge of sucking on him.

「At midnight for some reason I'm "getting the desire" for Rokuhara-san very much so.....」

「Yep yep」

「Why are you nodding with a serious face? That's not like you.」

「No, you see, it feels fresh that such words are coming out from Riona's mouth.」

「Ple, please don't say stupid thing-」

The splendid 『fiancee』 act at the noon was like a lie——

She was red faced and flustered while separating herself from Ren. But she didn't get out from the bed and wrapped herself in the same blanket to sleep together right beside him.

Furthermore she was keeping her back turned on Ren while gradually closing on him.

「Are you planning to attack me at my sleep just as I thought?」

「The, there is no way I will do that. But, for some reason it feels hard to leave.」

「If you are wishing it that much.....isn't it better to become my wife for real rather than just for pretense? If our relationship becomes even deeper than now, then perhaps both of us will become the strongest golden duo.」

Ren said forty percent jokingly and sixty percent seriously.





「I have this feeling that my compatibility with Riona is really good.」

「Thi, this isn't me, but my subconscious that is wishing for it-」

Riona turned around inside the bed to face him and finally showed him her flustered face.

「Please don't mistake that. A pretense engagement is already enough!」

「I see, that's unfortunate. Then, let's sleep like this until morning.」

「Rokuhara-san is a bit strange with how you can say that calmly in this situation..... Though I will accept your kind words and do so. By the way」

Riona glared at Ren from nearby while asking.

「Aren't Rokuhara-san also getting the desire for me? Even though you are also connected to me with Nike's authority?」

「I'm not feeling any particular emotion like that I think.」

「Uuu-. It's frustrating. Even though I'm getting "like this".」

「Specifically what is it that you're feeling?」

「My positivity level to Rokuhara-san at the first meeting was 『D-』 . Then I drank Thor's mead when it increased until around 『C+』 , since then it became 『B』 or 『A』 or 『AA』 . My feeling is so unsteady that even I myself don't really understand it——」

As expected from her. Riona was talking falteringly like an intelligent theorist.

She was pondering while pouring her heart into it and slowly chose her words.

「The magic of that mead, in my opinion its effect should only work for a brief period though.」

「In other words Thor's mead became the impetus that made Riona's heart to be conscious of me as “that kind of target”..... Is it something like that?」

「Perhaps it's like that—wha, what kind of convenient guess you are making!?!」

Riona noticed that she was getting led on and returned to her senses.

「Ju, just now is a lie. Thor's mead was containing a bad magic-. It was something evil that gave the drinker an effect like love potion!」

「If you want I can drink the mead that he gave you at the noon to verify the effect?」

「No need-. I've properly disposed of that thing!」

It was a conversation while they were lying down on the same bed while facing each other.

It was also reaching a stopping point, so they were finally going back to sleep—didn't happen. Riona was staring at Ren's face while fidgeting. She must be unable to calm herself like this.

Ren casually kissed Riona's cheek.

「!? Rokuhara-san, what are you.....!?」

「A good night kiss. It will be great if Riona can also sleep well with that.」

「Ri, right. Certainly, if we touch each other a bit, then my consciousness might also get satisfied..... Ah——」

Riona almost nodded, but her eyes suddenly changed.

It became the gaze of a queen who was staring at a treasured object haughtily. Her face slowly approached and plugged up Ren's lips.

Ren exchanged kiss with his “fiancée” while comprehending something.

He realized. That kind of act might have become a rousing for her instead.

When he was thinking if he was going to be assaulted by her in this way, Riona's lips suddenly moved away.

「Rokuhara-san-. Yo.....you put in your tongue?」

「Ah, sorry. While I was thinking, by mistake I reflexively——」

「I've also gone through this kind of experience several times so.....ah ouch!」

His left shoulder was bitten by Riona.

Although she didn't do it too strongly, it was quite painful.

「That hurt Riona. You don't need to bite like that」

「Shut up. What is it with the problematic statement just now even though you have me accompanying you here?」

「In other words you don't like it that your fiancée is giving a hint of other woman at his past? You're unexpectedly fastidious.」

「I, I retract my previous statement. I did something strange because my mood was slightly getting worked up. Good night Rokuhara-san.」

「Call me Ren already.」

「No way-. It's embarrassing, so I won't concede that!」

Perhaps she was 『unconsciously』 calming down from the sequence of event just now.

Riona turned her back on him and began to breathe like sleeping person. Ren followed her.

Like that the two of them slept for several hours—. The sprang up together when suddenly the sound of a horn rang out.

.

BUooooOOOOOOOOO—. BUooooOOOOOOOO—.

BUoooOOOOO—. BUoooOOOOOO—. BUoooOOOOOO—.

The loud horn sound was coming from somewhere.

Someone was blowing the horn from outside the Valhalla Palace. That resounding sound was terribly soul-stirring, at the same time it was also vaguely sounding grim.

「Who is blowing the horn?」

Ren got out of the bed and opened the window that was a type to be lifted up.

The eastern sky was starting to grow bright. The time was right at the dawn. And then, powdered snow was falling from the sky of dawn. It was a really light snowfall.

The snow that had never stopped falling these several days was finally about to stop.

But the sky was dark because of a thick cloud with deep grey color. It looked really ominous.

The sound of the horn was still continuing. It was resounding through the sky to be a warning of the danger to the world.

「Perhaps, it's the horn of Gjallarhorn.」

Riona who came to his side whispered.

「It's a tool to give notice at the time of Ragnarok. It's said that this horn is blown when enemy is approaching the rainbow bridge Bifrost.」

.

6

—The wolves will tear off the chain and start running

—The towering tree of Yggdrasil will shake in fear, the giants will obtain freedom

—The great snake Jormundgand will writhe in rage and cause high waves

.

「Those damn big snake, it's coming up to the land just as prophesied!」

The lightning god Thor cursed heroically.

He was surveying across the lower world from the rainbow bridge Bifrost, that was why he immediately noticed.

The world snake Jormundgand that twined around the land spreading far below his eyes—it finally rose up from inside the sea and lifted up its head.

It was a movement at the eastern coast of the continent.

Just that movement caused a high wave that surged toward the coast. A tsunami attacked the shore.

Spearheading this towering high wave that was like a cliff—

The world snake crawled up toward the land.

If there was a city there, it would become an empty lot just from this monster crawling through it. Everything was washed away just from the tsunami passing through.

Fortunately, the north and east of the continent was the domicile of the giants and there was no human there.

But, if the snake kept advancing like this, the human world Midgard would end up getting atrociously flattened.

And then, the advance of the tsunami that was like a cliff and Jormungand was tremendously fast. They were rapidly moving toward the west with a momentum that was like the chariot of lightning god Thor!

「O iron hammer of Mjolnir, let loose the light!」

Thor swung down his hammer as the protector of the humans.

His fighting spirit drove him to hit the head of Jormungand. He hit, hit, and kept hitting. Lightning descended from the heavens with each hit, beating up the angered world snake.

A yell of anguish blasted out from the excessively huge snake's mouth.

SHAaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

.

SHAaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

The world snake stopped advancing along with that agony.

Even the giant tsunami that came from the sea as accompaniment of the huge monster snake was also the work of divine mystery. It stopped together with its master the great snake and turned into a wall of sea water. It was as though time had stopped for it.

「You won't advance further than this!」

The lightning god Thor boasted.

But, the prophecy of Ragnarok had foretold.

After Thor the son of Odin took down the world snake, he would take nine steps back and died. His whole body would be ravaged by that snake's fierce venom.

Even an extremely heroic fight wouldn't be able to stop the advance of the end.

.

—The ship of death Naglfar left the shore

—The giant Hrym come from the east and lift his shield

.

There was only ocean at the east from the coastal area where Thor was fighting hard.

A rainbow of seven colors came into being from a corner of the vast sea surface.

It was heading to far away sky above, drawing a great arc. This was the rainbow bridge Bifrost. The bridge of divine mystery that was spanning from the lower world toward Asgard that existed at the height of the sky.

If one climbed this rainbow—it would be possible to advance toward Asgard.

In that case, the ocean that was the origin of the rainbow was 『the foot of the rainbow』 .

A ship was advancing to there.

The “ship of death” Naglfar with the old giant Hrym at its helm.

Several hundred ice giants the Hrimthurs were boarding the ship. They were incomparable with the bunch of giants that were rampaging nearby the fence of Midgard some days ago. They were ferocious, excellent in magic power, and tough.

And then, also.

.

—A ship arrive from the east

—The fellows of Muspel cross the sea and come here

.

A huge ship that was as big as Naglfar was coming to the ocean area where the origin of rainbow was located.

There were also several hundred giants riding this ship. However, it was the army of the fire giant tribe Muspel. The giant leading it was wearing a red garment and hat.

His face was handsome, but his cunning personality manifested as a twisted face.

The man who was the stepbrother of Odin as well as his traveling companion. A god who could transform into any appearance. The father of the demon wolf Fenrir and the world snake Jormundgand. His name was Loki.

Odin's retainers also gathered in order to meet these enemies.

Any of them were stalwart warriors riding on swift horse that soared in the sky. It was an army of Einherjar, more than eight hundred dead warriors that were being led by the war maidens Valkyries.

Also, the gods who were called to gather by the war maidens were also.....

However, the people who were named as survivor in the prophecy when the battle of Ragnarok ended couldn't be found there.

The gods, the giants, and everybody else who gathered here, all of them were destined to die.

Within this chaotic melee, a giant whose whole body was enveloped in flame was climbing the rainbow bridge. His right hand was holding a great sword that originally should be wielded with both hands.

That was the sword of flame. The blade was clad in fire that was emitting a radiance that was even more dazzling than the sun.

ooooooooOoooooooo.....

He who was letting out a low groan was no one else but the giant of flame Surtr. Without even needing to swing around his sword, the flame enveloping his body was already enough to burn the approaching warriors of Odin army into ash.

Surtr was calmly climbing the rainbow bridge Bifrost alone.

•

—Surtr bring fire from the south and attack

—Odin challenge the wolf to battle, the radiant killing hand Freyr stand in the way of Surtr

—The king of Asgard fall, sadness surely assail his wife.....

•

The giant Surtr was approaching the Valhalla Palace of Asgard.

「We are going to stop him with the two of us, Freyr.」

「As you wish. Given the situation, I'm feeling regretful to let go of my prized sword in exchange of marrying my wife.」

The handsome god Freyr nodded at the call of the chief god Odin.

His tone was refreshing despite saying that he was regretful. He was in a completely calm manner in the moment before the decisive battle, even though it was a battle where it was prophesied that he would die.

「But, I have this thing. I will do everything that I can.」

He tapped at the antler hanging on his waist in the place of a sword.

Freyr wavy blond hair was grown long. His skin was clear white. He was a radiantly handsome young man, similar like Apollo of Greek mythology.

However, unlike the sun god who was a total ruffian, he was oddly refreshing to look at.

「.....There is a strange sexiness from his gaze.」

「.....So you understand. He is the number one sexy guy and playboy of Norse mythology. He will gamble even his life if it's for the sake of romance. Even his twin little sister is a target of his amorous adventure. He is a handsome guy character that is the opposite of Thor.」

Ren and Riona whispered to each other in a low voice.

Ignoring them, Odin and Freyr, the two gods straddled their ride.

The old king who was holding the magic spear Gungnir was on the divine horse Sleipnir, while the handsome Freyr was surprisingly riding on a golden. He jumped on its back skillfully.

「My son Vidar. You head out to assist your elder brother Thor.」

「.....」

「Onward to the ground of decisive battle the plain of Vigrior. Let's go Freyr!」

「As you wish. I'll serve to accompany you.」

The divine horse and boar ran off and left the Valhalla Palace. After receiving the command from his father, the overly silent Vidar also jumped on his horse and left toward a different direction.

And then, remaining at the garden of Valhalla Palace was——

Only Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona.

「Odin, Thor, Freyr.....the gods who are destined to die shortly are accompanied by a helper for each of them. What's left is for us who is in charge of Fenrir to win. If we manage that」

Riona muttered.

「Then even the fate of destruction can be avoided.」

「By the way, what will happen to the handsome man Freyr-san in the plot of Ragnarok?」

「Because his weapon is an antler, he cannot win against the flame giant as expected and die in battle.」

「I know it」

「And then the sun will be swallowed by Fenrir, while the moon and other stars will also be swallowed by Fenrir's family, making those vanish from the sky. The land will sink into the sea, and the flame of the giant Surtr will burn everything to ash, ending the world.」

「Our job is to overturn that huh.」

Ren sighed.

「I wonder where will the marquis-sama, our opponent come from.」

As though to answer that, Ren suddenly felt—a killing intent.

He looked up to the sky in surprise.

It should be morning, but the gloomy dark cloud was covering the whole sky. There was something that split this cloud and fell to here like a meteor.

That was a wolf's skull—. Its mouth was opened wide.

The skull and also the fangs that filled the mouth to the brim were absurdly huge. Surely it would be able to easily swallow even the magnificent Valhalla Palace in one bite.

This kind of object was descending from the sky.

It was a gigantic creature that was like the beast of apocalypse that announced the end.

「Dropping such thing from the sky, the marquis-sama is also flashy in his action isn't he!」

「I will go first.」

Riona declared one-sidedly beside Ren.

Her figure immediately transformed into the bird of guidance Yatagarasu and rushed toward the sky. She did it before Ren gave her the permission to release her ability.

Perhaps this was also the proof of the level up of her ability.

By becoming Ren's partner, she had accomplished an evolution that made her become able to release her full power even without any permission from her master.

The skull of Fenrir that was created from Marquis Voban's authority was approaching from the sky.

Ragnarok was finally starting.

Chapter 6 – The Demon Wolf's Roar

1

「Sacred flame pure and clear——」

Riona transformed into Yatagarasu and chanted the words of power.

「With the purification of fire, exorcist every kind of misfortune!」

What answered the prayer was the shikigami twelve divine generals.

Similar like before, they manifested as fire spirit in the form of a lump of flame burning bright red.

Riona=Yatagarasu was followed by twelve flames behind her and climbed up steeply toward the skull of Fenrir that was falling from the sky.

On the other hand, Rokuhara Ren who was remaining on the ground at Valhalla Palace——.

「.....Then, my opponent will be the marquis-sama directly?」

「.....So you noticed. You're a brat with good instinct.」

There were 540 gates that could be used to come and go from the palace.

A young man wearing clothing of modern earthling of business suit and black coat entered from one of them. His step was brazen.

「You said that, but you didn't even hide your presence or gaze.」

Ren smiled wryly in front of Marquis Voban who was fearless as well as haughty.

「I feel a chill on my back, like a strange feeling.」

「That was impolite of me. Forgive me. I was simply unable to suppress my excitement.」

In contrast with his words, the marquis didn't look bashful at all.

What dwelled inside his emerald eyes was surely killing intent without any doubt. However, Rokuhara Ren also wasn't a character who would falter just from that. Ren spoke with his usual pace.

「The Fenrir this time isn't marquis-san's transformation?」

「I have done that the other day. Rather than your flying retainer, today I'm thinking to.....play with you directly without rushing.」

It was a peaceful exchange of words. This part was like a jab.

It was the foundation of all offense and defense in boxing. Holding back the enemy. A light punch for the sake of gauging the distance. Both Ren and Voban fired that while probing their opponent's condition with their eyes.

Unlike several days ago, the wolf slayer marquis was in perfect condition physically and mentally—.

Rokuhara Ren had also rested enough. He could accelerate to full throttle anytime—.

And then, the battlefield was the garden of Valhalla Palace.

Everyday the dead warriors were training their martial art here. It was a place where sword and shield clashed and horse dashed. It was vast enough and there was also no obstacle. Furthermore it was also protected with magic, so there wasn't any snow pile here. He could start anytime!

Marquis Voban suddenly chanted.

「Run you wolves and lightning!」

「I'll also use my acceleration device here!」

The two godslayers switched from stillness to movement instantly.

At this time Voban summoned demon wolves. The wolves that boasted a build like a horse that he saw the other day. They numbered 39 in total. The kinetic vision of Ren that was accelerated until the realm that allowed him to see through even lightning easily counted that number.

The demon wolves manifested from empty air in a position that was surrounding him. They suddenly leaped.

The wolf pack assaulted him one after another from all directions of 360 degree. The beasts attacked in multitude using their fang, fang, fang. However, between the beast's rapid attacks there was extremely short—pause that was even less than half a second each. That was enough.

Ren skillfully slipped through the wolf pack with a godspeed movement.

But, the savageness of the marquis added lightning attack too there.

Seven lightning fell from the sky at the same timing when the agile Ren slipped through the pinch. The space where Ren should be at was burned down along with the dozens of wolves that the marquis summoned.

Nemesis's escaping feet made its way through even this net of lightning attack—.

「My bad but, even that is a bit slow!」

「Kukuku. But, how long you can keep dodging?」

Marquis Voban pointed his index finger to the sky.

Sparkling electricity was fired from that fingertip, burning the space right in the front of the marquis. The next electricity spread to the space at the right of the marquis, next it was the left, and after that to the back—

He rained down lightning to the surrounding from very close range, burning everything indiscriminately.

He didn't do anything like aiming at Ren who was running around. He was repeatedly carpet bombing his surrounding so that he would hit the target in due time.

And then the marquis—undoubtedly possessed toughness that enabled him to keep this up for eternity!

「That's really forceful!」

Ren continued to avoid the numerous lightning attacks that were repeatedly scattered to everywhere using Nemesis's escaping feet.

He did it while half laughing from excessively feeling half exasperated and half impressed.

The ancient demon king had experienced the adversity of many battle, in addition he also possessed a reborn young body. This feat of strength was exactly from those. It was truly an amazing violence.

Ren flexibly stepped to all directions to dodge, jump, skip, turn, and dance.

He continued to dodge Marquis Voban's lightning with super speed dance while——

「This is him luring me to counterattack isn't it?」

Ren mumbled to himself.

Yes. The enemy already knew. His stock of retribution would increase if they attacked him and sooner or later the attacks would return back to themselves. And then, Ren also knew. In order to stop an attacker that had obtained momentum, there was no other way than to counterattack and landed a painful blow on the enemy. However.

「He is planning to counter my counter isn't he.....」

Marquis Voban was discharging electricity again and again with eyes that were shining penetratingly.

But, there was also calmness somewhere within those eyes that was gauging the timing. He must be observing. When Rokuhara Ren would heighten his magic power to the maximum and came out to decide the match.

There was no other way for him but to unleash a single attack that even the formidable warrior who killed Fenrir “couldn’t handle”.

The existence that was the key of it——

Was his “fiancée” who was fighting in the sky. That was Ren’s thought.

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「I never thought that I would be forced to imitate gundam at this kind of place.....!」

Toba Riona who personified Yatagarasu yelled from her heart.

「I swear I’ll stop this colony drop no matter what!」

The skull of demon wolf Fenrir that split the dark cloud hanging in the air and fell from the sky.

It opened its gigantic and empty mouth so wide that it could swallow Valhalla Palace whole while approaching the land of Asgard.

The descent of the skull was as fast as a meteor that fell within earth’s atmosphere.

In that case, the damage that resulted from that would also be the same like meteor impact or even greater——

Yatagarasu halted on the space between the skull in the sky and the palace on the ground.

「O the heavenly myriad of Hidama-no-mikoto as well as Ame-no-Sazuchi-no-kami, o god of dog Izanagi-no-kami, I beg you to protect us!」

She used her full power into the words of power of curse reversal and telepathy.

In order to stop the falling skull of Fenrir and pushed it back to the heavens.

The twelve flame spirits gathered around Yatagarasu who spread open both her wings. The shikigami twelve divine generals. They formed a circle with their master the sacred bird at the center.

A magic circle of fire and sun appeared in the air—.

Riona=Yatagarasu's whole body blazed bluish white. The flame spirits also combusted in the same color. The heightened divine power changed into a telekinesis that could stop even meteor.

The falling speed of Fenrir's skull was suppressed until half of it forcefully by brute strength!

「Twelve divine generals, send me more power!」

She encouraged the divine generals and heightened everyone's telekinesis even more.

The momentum of the evil skull that was falling from the sky awakened again. But it didn't completely stop. It was steadily approaching the palace of Valhalla.

「As I thought, it looks like it will be no good unless the source is severed!」

And then at the same time, she felt the thought from her goshujin-sama on the ground.

Just like how his memory was transmitted to her, Riona's scheme was surely transmitted to him too. Rokuhara Ren's thought was calling out.

『Let's start that thing now!』 It said!

「Everyone, that's how it is-. We're starting the Fierce God Exorcism!」

She called out to the twelve divine generals who transformed into flame.

「The abrupt darkness of heaven—. The golden spirit of black kite come and the imperial bow stop it. That black kite is shining bright, like a lightning stream.....!」

Actually she wasn't just using telekinesis. She was also accomplishing one other task.

Although the sky was cloudy with the snow-laden clouds blocking the sun, right now was daytime. Furthermore it was morning. Even though the cloud was hiding it, the sun would arrive at the zenith. Her strength was increasing every second as the sun was heading toward the noon.

And then, Yatagarasu and the flame spirits were the heaven-sent child of the sun—.

It was a suitable situation to heighten the spirit of sun within themselves.

「If the enemy is coming with colony drop, then our side will pay respect with colony laser!」

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Now was the time to decide victory or defeat. Ren chanted the words of power.

「Nemesis will hand down the divine punishment to misdeed that jeopardize life.」

The faint and transparent figure of Goddess Nemesis—appeared behind him.

She was a goddess with spread out white wings, fluttering ice blue hair, crimson garment, and black mask. What that avatar unleashed was the numerous lightning that the Fenrir slayer fired.

「The calamity that I confronted is none other than thy agony. I wish for the judgment of justice here!」

Amazingly a total of 300 lightning attacks shot toward Marquis Voban as divine punishment.

Furthermore, they were fired at the same timing.

Far above Ren, his comrades were emitting light.

Yatagarasu that was burning bluish white and the twelve spirits of flame—dazzling golden flash was unlashd toward the ground from their whole body.

It was a laser attack from a total of thirteen body. The lights glinted and using their scorching heat they gouged. Gouged. Gouged.

Riona and others had amassed the energy of sun and sublimated it into a weapon of certain kill!

「O, OOOOOOOH!」

The lightning and laser combination showered the Fenrir slaying demon king together.

It caused a roar to be raised. Marquis Voban raised a roar of anguish. The golden light and radiant heat, impact and hot wind overran the courtyard of Valhalla Palace. They were burning it to ash.

Ren's field of vision was also filled with dazzling light, but.

He certainly saw it within the light.

The marquis's body was bloating. It was transforming into a grey wolf. That body's size was more than ten meter. It was a transformation toward the demon wolf that they had witnessed several times until now.

Furthermore, the giant body of the grey wolf was—

Releasing brilliant white light from under his fur!

「Like the star shining in the daytime.....the light of Lykos reach even the heavens!」

The marquis's spell was overflowing with fighting spirit. The white light that the demon wolf's body emitted was also getting stronger.

The light of the grey wolf and—Nemesis's lightning, and then the laser of Yatagarasu and others that was fired from the sky melted into one, becoming a platinum colored radiance.

It was as though all the lights were neutralizing and negating each other.....

Right now, the sacred Valhalla Palace and its courtyard was sublimely illuminated.

「In other words, it's not really effective!?!」

「It's no good Rokuhara-san! If we don't rally ourselves quickly—!」

「Hahahahaha! This is far more powerful than I imagined.....it's really a stimulating attack! This is a return gift from me—accept it brat!」

Ren was astounded. Riona warned him from the sky.

Marquis Voban who transformed into a grey wolf howled arrogantly and his magic power heightened explosively.

And then, Fenrir's skull that split the dark cloud and was in the middle of falling, the falling object that was somehow held in place by the telekinesis of Yatagarasu and others—

The symbol of world destruction sped up its falling.

The telekinesis of Riona and others was drastically weakened by the laser attack just now.

Falling. Falling. The skull of demon wolf Fenrir was falling. The twelve flame spirits collided with the ominous falling object and their fire was

drowned out.

「.....Kuh!」

The sacred bird Yatagarasu alone steeply climbed to diagonally above and dodged.

But, as expected even her already didn't have any way to stop the fall of the dead Fenrir. It was approaching Valhalla Palace with a falling speed that was like a falling meteor within earth's atmosphere.

Ren naturally decided to use Nemesis's escaping feet. However.

Marquis Voban who transformed into a giant wolf—spat out something small from his savage mouth. It flew toward Ren. It was a somewhat large short sword.

「When my sword is swung down, something that shouldn't rot will rot into nothing——」

「Eh?」

With Nemesis's authority, something like a thrown short sword wouldn't be anything worth mentioning.

He should be able to easily dodge it. But, for some reason his chest was already stabbed when he noticed. The mediocre short sword was in Rokuhara Ren's chest.....

「Kukukuku. Accept that blade that severe even the Gordian Knot!」

「——!?!」

Fenrir's skull was falling even while he was in a daze.

Ren endured the intense pain in his chest while using Nemesis's escaping feet somehow. He desperately ran. He would die if he didn't get away as far away as possible——

The next moment, the magnificent Valhalla Palace was crushed.

The skull of dead demon wolf crashed on it.

Explosion and shockwave raged violently.

It was a terrific destructive power—that changed the sacred precincts where Odin’s palace was built into a giant crater.

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2

The crater that was gouged on Asgard's ground.

It was in a scale of several hundred meters in diameter. There was something that crawled out from underground at a corner that was near the bottom of this overly large hole.

The grey giant wolf that became covered in dust—. It was Voban.

He dived into the ground in order to escape from the explosion of Fenrir's skull that he dropped himself.

Rather than a wolf, he was more like a small rat that crawled into underground sewer or a cave. He deeply, deeply advanced to the bottom of the ground and escaped the danger somehow.

「With this Fenrir's bone can't be used for a while.」

Voban returned from a grey wolf into a human body and muttered.

This authority would surely get named as Ragnarok's Wolf if it was the pretentious magicians who decided it. It was extremely powerful but, it couldn't be used consecutively after all was said and done.

「Well it doesn't matter. Even without it, it doesn't change the fact that I am the strongest wolf.」

Voban keenly felt his own strength and gloated shortly.

The god of wolf that Voban first killed was extremely strong.

If talking about the god's greatness in legend, compared to the wolf of the end Fenrir it was—superior. It wasn't even comparison anymore between

the two when it came to the degree of popularity.

The name of that wolf was known by anyone in Europe.

That god was born in an underground café together with his twin little sister.

His mother was a goddess of earth. Thanks to that spiritual relationship, he could crawl into underground like diving into water and survived. Voban wasn't bothered at all that he looked like a pitiful mouse or anything.

It was fine if he won. It was fine if he survived. That was all.

「The view has become better.」

He climbed the slope of the crater with his two legs and returned to a flat ground.

Stuffy hot air filled the ground and the surrounding that was gouged by the authority of Fenrir. It was the lingering aftermath of the explosion. The ground he was stepping on was also still hot.

And then, the palace of Valhalla that was pointlessly extravagant had disappeared.

Voban was satisfied and narrowed the eyes of his human body.

He was born as a street urchin and spent days of wandering in the street even after that.

Although he was held in awe as a demon king for long, he wouldn't stay for long in one land. He felt completely bored of the territory and castle of the marquis that became the base of his title within a few years.

He felt it stupid to display his strength and influence with the extravagance of his dwelling.

「Fuh—. It's still understandable if it's the royalty and nobility everywhere who are lower than even mongrel. But for the gods to fool

around by boasting of their gaudy castle is nothing but ridiculous.」

The name of Dejanstahl Voban was an improvised name that he called himself.

The marquis house that he attacked in his youth and took as his possession was keeping three savage dogs. Their names were Dejan, Stahl, and Voban.

He made the dogs' names as his own from sarcasm and joking mood toward the bunch that had nothing to be proud of except their family name——.

「Grimoire. Tell me the situation of Odin and the others.」

「.....As you wish.」

A girl wearing a black hat, a cloak, and a purple dress appeared with a puff.

The authority Singing Grimoire of the demon god Baphomet that was worshipped by sorcerer group and Templar Knight. That spirit was holding a crystal ball.

What was projected there was——

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.....Lightning god Thor and his little brother Vidar swung down a hammer and stabbed a sword into the head of the overly large world snake Jormundgand. However, the snake that entwined around the continent twisted its giant body that was as big as a giant tsunami. It was still going strong——.

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.....Two giant ships and the giants boarding them were rampaging in order to take away the rainbow bridge Bifrost. They fired arrows and threw stones from the ship. They also got onto the rainbow and swung their sword and spear. The valkyries and einherjars defending the bridge were gradually getting cornered——.

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.....The giant Surtr that was like a moving small mountain swung down his flame sword. Fire bullets were shot without rest from his whole body that was clad in flame. The chief god Odin and the handsome god Freyr were desperately defending while searching for a chance to counterattack—.

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「Now then. Vigrior Plain is the nearest from Valhalla where I'm at..... It's the battlefield where my allied friend Surtr is at. Odin and Freyr, let's take care of them together.」

But, the fighting spirit inside Voban's heart welled up even more.

Breaking off relations with the flame giant Surtr after erasing two gods and then competed to decide who was the strongest in this sanctuary also wasn't bad—

「.....It seems it's too early to think of such thing.」

Voban laughed at his own hastiness and looked up to the sky.

A glittering golden bird was flying. The background behind the bird was the cloudy sky that was covered by thick cloud, so that glorious majestic figure stood out even more. It was a sacred bird with three legs.

「First is to bring that down.」

Voban muttered and then added more.

「Though I don't know whether that bird is the memento of that brat or if that brat is also still alive!」

.

And then, the soaring Yatagarasu—.

「Marquis-sama is still eager it seems.....」

Toba Riona who transformed into a three-legged golden feathered bird was looking down on the crater that was gouged on the ground while gliding. Her form with her wings spread out was the appearance of the ruler of the sky.

But, Riona wasn't composed.

She was painfully feeling the gaze of the surviving Marquis Voban at her.

Even though he was a wolf that was running on the ground, he intended to leap at the phoenix dancing in the sky and bit it to death!

「How far Rokuhara-san ran to!?!」

Perhaps because of the bond from the authority of Goddess Nike, she didn't think that he was dead.

She was sure even without any basis. That he was surely alive. However, the colony or rather the Fenrir drop swallowed all her shikigami twelve divine generals and exterminated them.

Could she resummon them even without Rokuhara Ren beside her?

「.....It feels impossible.」

The feeling of omnipotence when she was fighting together with him didn't well up.

Riona circled on the sky while sighing.

Besides—Marquis Voban was already enduring her attack once.

The full power attack that was fired by Riona and the shikigamis, the spirits of fire and sun. It was the Great Exorcism of Golden Kite that condensed sunlight and changed it into the laser bombardment from thirteen bodies.

「At that time, it looked like our attack was mostly neutralized.」

It was still comprehensible that the lightning attack Nemesis returned became like that.

Surely the marquis suppressed the lightning as much as he could with his authority of wind and rain and thunder. He heightened his magical force to the maximum by transforming into wolf and enlarging himself—

「But, the laser of me and the shikigamis.....」

Did he neutralize it with the authority of world-destroying conflagration that he showed before? No, that should be an authority that couldn't be used like that at all. If that wasn't the case then there was no way he would be able to instantaneously spread out such absurd firepower to that degree.

There should be other spiritual factor that could suppress the holy spirits of fire and sun that were the sun itself—

「.....Don't tell me」

Riona recalled.

The grey wolf the marquis transformed into didn't dig into the ground, it was obviously crawling deeply underground by an application of divine power. It was almost instantly. That was a demon wolf with deep connection to the earth.

But at the same time, it might be also related to the sun of the sky—?

「For example, the blue wolf that the equestrian tribe worship is the symbol of sky. There is also a possibility that it can exert great influence to the sun.....?」

She raised a hypothesis before immediately erasing it by herself.

「That's not it! The true identity of that wolf is——!」

It wasn't instinct. Her spiritual sense as an incarnation of god was working.

A single name of a god surfaced in Riona's heart. That god was born in the dark depths of the earth. But, later he became a sun god that shined in the sky.

「His sacred beast first is rat.....and then wolf!」

Riona's words became a shot of 『Kueeeh!』 from Yatagarasu's beak.

「This isn't a joke! Obviously there won't really be any effect even if I launch an attack of sun element to such opponent! Wait—eh!?!」

When she looked, Marquis Voban was transforming once more on the ground.

He was transforming into the grey wolf that possessed the same gigantic build like the wolf of the end Fenrir that she witnessed before. His upper body jerked down and his four limbs warped. It looked like a wolf that was in the verge of leaping toward its prey.

It would be bad if the same blunder in Spain was repeated—. Riona chanted.

「O shoes of son of forest Vidar, grant me strength!」

The three legs of Yatagarasu, one of them was swung through air.

The present from Odin was thrown toward the ground. The pair of magical shoes that lightning god Thor's little brother Vidar was wearing flew toward Marquis Voban.

It was entrusted toward her from her goshujin-sama this time too just like with Achilles's shield.

「Oo, this is!?!」

A shocked shout came out from the mouth of the marquis who transformed into wolf.

Surprisingly as soon as the left and right shoes fell near the ground—they transformed into a giant ash tree.

Without stopping it took root on the ground while growing its branches toward the giant wolf. They entangled him and splendidly sealed his movement!

Naturally Marquis Voban's giant body rampaged to shake off the branches.

Creak-! Creak-! Creak-! Creak-!

The ash tree was creaking. Creaking. However, it was holding on firmly.

「A mere tree dare to restrain this Voban. Quite the herculean strength it has there!」

「Obviously! The god of forest Vidar is a hero that is second only to the lightning god Thor. He trample down on Fenrir's jaw and seal his movement before stabbing him to death. It is the magic shoes that grant him the power of wolf sealing—. The shoes that I threw just now!」

Riona looked down on the giant wolf struggling on the ground and boasted loudly.

Vidar was a word with the meaning of forest.

He was a son that was born between Odin and a female giant who wasn't his legal wife. He lived in seclusion in the forest of Vidi and possessed shoes that his mother gifted him. While it was a shoes that was created from leather scraps, it was said to seal Fenrir's fang and strength with the hardness of iron—.

「I see. In that case.....I'll overturn even that legend!」

Marquis Voban howled even while the ash tree was binding him.

The giant body of the grey wolf was giving off the majesty of the fierce demon king even further. The composure of the powerful could also be seen

from him. He had the conviction that he would be able to free himself from this without fail.

Time was his ally. On the other hand, Riona was——

「Rokuhara-san, the time I can endure by myself isn't that long you know.....」

If possible, she wanted to bury the marquis right now.

But if she carelessly attacked, the ash tree would also get blown away and Dejanstahl Voban would be freed. Right now she could only watch quietly.....

Riona thought about him, her goshujin-sama who still hadn't returned.

.

3

「Nn.....Ren-sama.....」

「Cassandra huh」

Ren was lying down on snow when he noticed.

And then, the princess of Troia was leaning over him. Ren's lips were plugged by her moist lips.

It seemed the magic power of healing was blew into him through mouth-to-mouth.

The pain of the stab wound on his chest was receding. At this rate the intense pain that might make him lost consciousness once more would somehow settle down to something that he could endure.

The softness and moderate weight of Cassandra who was leaning over him.

He felt that it was pleasant while touching the wound on his chest. The short sword that should be stabbed there was gone and the place was bandaged. It seemed his upper clothes were taken off while he was unconscious.

「You were healing me?」

「Yes. I somehow, made it in time.」

Cassandra's lips finally separated from Ren and she smiled sweetly to him.

She must be really worried. Her eyes were tearful.

(She must have learned from her prophecy.....that I'll escape to here.)

They were somewhere in a plain that was covered by snow. That was the only thing that could be said about the place.

But, it was without a doubt outside Valhalla Palace. Cassandra foresighted that Ren would come here and came ahead of him.

「Ren-sama.」

Cassandra smiled sweetly at him.

「That short sword, its stab was shallower than I worried. I believe the wound will heal soon.」

「Really? Then, it was good I desperately ran away.」

The short sword of Marquis Voban—it was absurdly hard to dodge.

Ren's legs and body wouldn't hear his order and the short sword stabbed his heart.

Nemesis's escaping feet couldn't be used only at that time. Even so Rokuhara Ren fully mobilized his inherent reflexes and leaped backward. That was why it didn't stab deeply—. Well, even so it seemed his heart was gouged quite much though.

After he was stabbed, the usual super acceleration activated.

So he desperately ran away at full speed to outside Valhalla Palace.

「Just what was that?」

「In order to oppose Ren-sama's authority that control karma, the wolf godslayer-sama—filled the short sword with an authority that sever even the determined fate.」

It must be her diagnosis as a priestess who was bestowed with the spiritual power of premonition.

Ren's eyes opened wide hearing the solemn revelation.

「Authority to change fate!? Amazing, so even such power exist.」

「Ren-sama's power, might be weak against such divine power.....」

「I'll bear it in mind. Well, I understand the trick's secret, so I think I'll be able to dodge it even if the marquis-sama try it again though.....」

Cassandra nodded in relief.

He stood up. Although he was slightly staggering, Ren firmly stood upright. He had to quickly return to where Marquis Voban and Riona were at—

「Eh?」

Thick mist was suddenly enshrouding the area.

He couldn't even see Cassandra in front of him. When he was about to call her name,

「You are healthier than I thought, godslayer.」

「Apollo-san!? Why are you in this kind of place!?」

There was a golden haired handsome young man inside the mist.

An old acquaintance and the protector of Troia, Apollo.

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He was wearing a southern-style thin garment that was unsuited for the snowy Norse mythology.

It was natural. After all the radiantly good looking sun god was a resident of Greek mythology. The sun god Apollo brightly spoke toward Ren who was surprised toward the unexpected reunion.

「Something is in my mind and so I'm traveling to everywhere outside our sanctuary. Whether it's Troia or this place, the chaos of these diverse worlds is really interesting.」

Apollo grinned.

「You are having a hard fight aren't you, godslayer.」

「I thought that I'm on the right track with the laser attack though.」

「It can't be helped. That wolf is also an avatar of sun after all.」

「Eh, sun?」

「Yes. In the first place wolf is a beast that run through darkness and the ground. But, in the domain of myth—sometimes wolf will mean the sky and sun. The effect will be faint even if you hit him with the sun.」

「Now that you mentioned it, I think I have heard about that kind of story before.」

The legend that was handed down in the equestrian tribe of middle and west Asia including Mongol.

It said, that the blue wolf was the envoy of heaven. His acquaintance who loved movie and novel told him such thing when they were drinking.

「So brother Voban has defeated that kind of god.....」

「And then to reveal the trick, that god is a divinity that is really close to this Apollo. The name of the wolf that person murdered is Apollo Lyceus—my spiritual sense is telling me that.」

「Eh, Apollo?」

「My divine name is ^{Phoebus} Apollo the Bright. However, there was also times when I manifested with another name—and nature. For example ^{Apollo} ^{Smintheus} Apollo. And then wolf ^{Apollo} ^{Lyceus} Apollo is also one of that.」

Apollo spoke with a beautiful voice that reminded one of the sound of lyre.

「There was also a time when I was a god of wolf at the northern land outside Greece. The people raising livestock were all worshipping me. At the wilderness, wolf is the most atrocious beast, because they are the envoy of heaven.」

「Apollo-san is wolf.....」

「And then, I was also worshipped as god of light that came from the east.」

「In other words, Apollo-san is like the Greece version of Inari-sama and the scary Inari-Dai-Myoujin?」

The grandmother who raised Ren was deeply religious which was unusual in these days.

In the past, when he was playing at the shrine that was worshipping Inari, he got coolly chided by her 『You will be punished by the scary Buddha you know?』 .

He got the feeling that she was saying things like Inari-Dai-Myouji or Dakini-sama or something.

Sure enough Apollo nodded easygoingly.

「I don't really know about that god but, well, you aren't really wrong. Anyway, I'm saying that cursed godslayer has killed a god that is an offshoot of me.」

「In other words the marquis's wolf is the sun's offshoot, so it's hard for beam to affect him.」

「But Rokuhara Ren. It's logical that there will be hardly any effect even if light is opposed with light, but it's also the truth that light will vanish when hit with even stronger light. If the light of your side is hotter and more dazzling then——」

「Ouch」

Apollo hit where it hurt. Certainly it was just as he said.

What erased the radiance of a star was even brighter light. That was standard.

But, Ren was immediately taken aback with realization.

「Wait. That means, if I can borrow the sun arrow from the other day again from Apollo-san then.....」

Would he be able to defeat the wolf of sun that was Marquis Voban?

Yosh. Then he would immediately call out Stella whose body was assimilated with him and they would kowtow together asking “please”——

「.....」

He wondered why. He was vaguely feeling danger.

The radiantly beautiful young man Apollo was grinning. His smile was scary. If he got into debt with him at this kind of decisive scene, it felt like he would get charged with an absurd amount of interest at the distant future——

(Riona)

At this kind of time he could only consult a wise person.

Ren thought of his “fiancée”. Even if they were separated, their bond, the authority of Goddess Nike should give him some kind of response.

Yes. The bond of authority that should be named as The Contract of Wings was——

Giving no response. Nothing came back to an unnatural degree. Could it be,

「.....」

Ren silently stared at the radiant Apollo. He was grinning.

「What's the matter, Rokuhara Ren?」

「Nothing. I'm just wondering why Apollo-san is kindly giving me advice.」

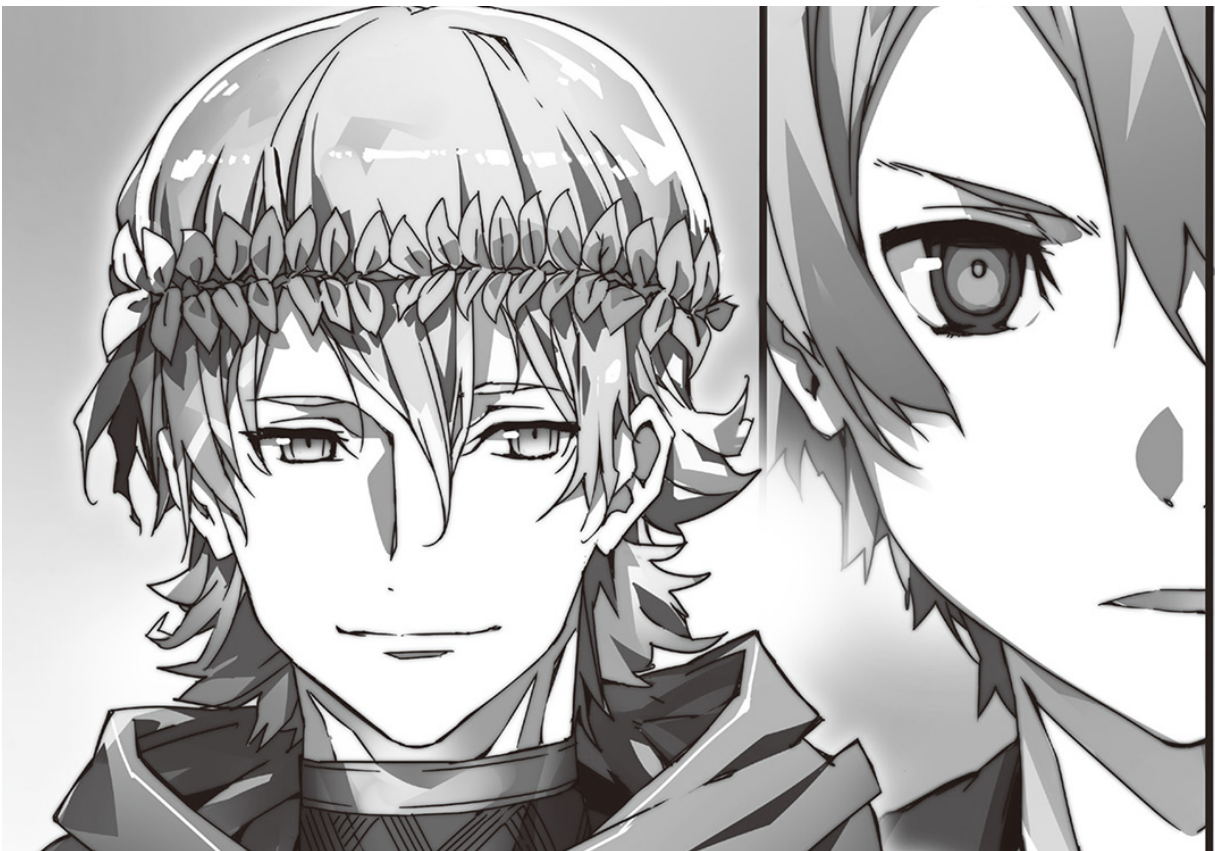
「I said it right? That a close relative was killed by that person. This is revenge for that.」

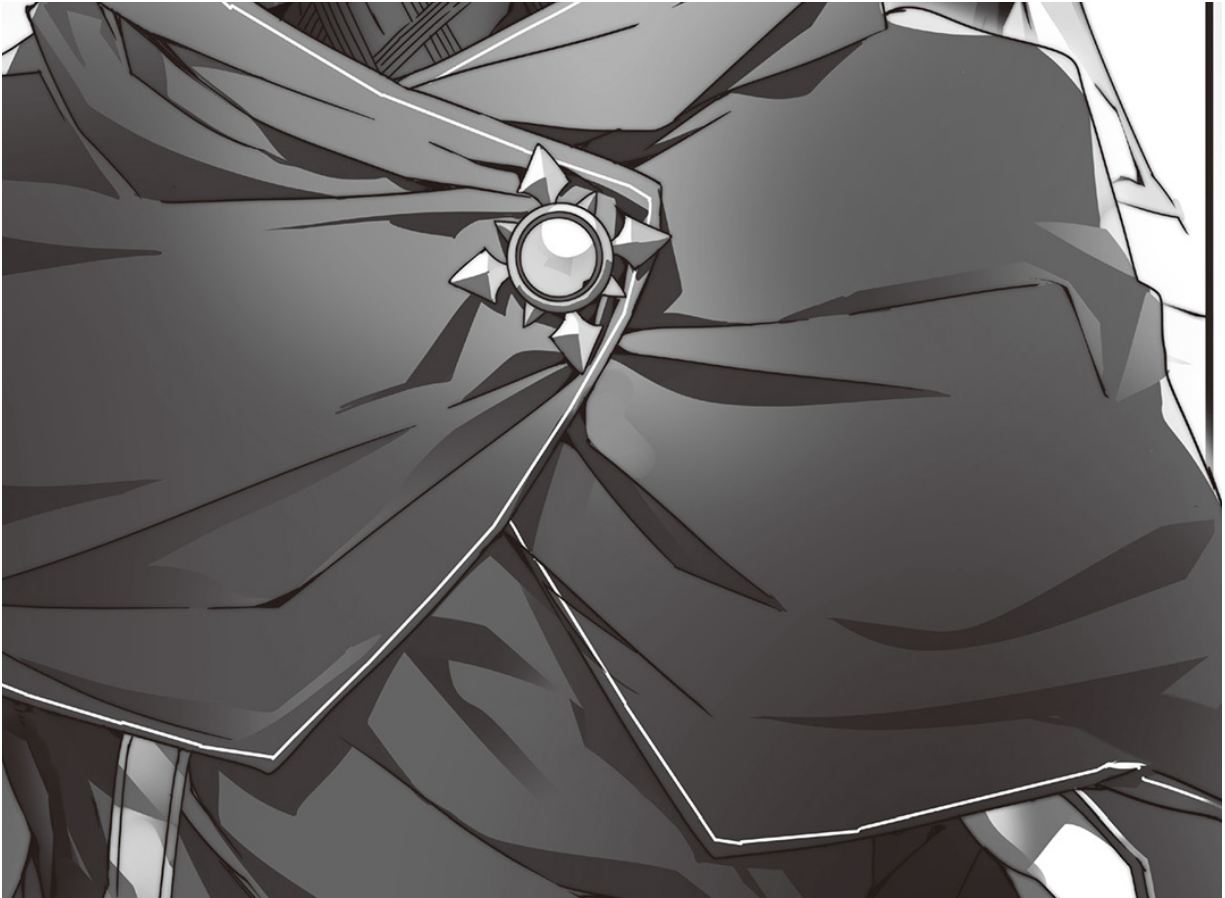
「I wonder about that. Apollo-san, you don't look like a character who will mind about such thing.....」

「Hahahaha」

Apollo laughed loudly with the ruffian expression still on his face.

「What. It's just as I mentioned just now, the great chaos that is visiting these diverse worlds—is extremely enjoyable for me. I wish that it will grow even bigger and intense. And then, I believe that right now rather than that wolf slayer.....I should cooperate with you instead.」





Even though he was saying that, but he was severing his connection with Riona.

And then, what was said by this sun god who was enjoying the world's chaos——

(Diverse worlds.....the great chaos of several worlds. In other words, it's a situation that will destroy Troia, Midgard, and our earth huh.....)

This god found pleasure from such thing. He felt terribly dangerous.

Just how great a tragedy it would become if destruction kept progressing like this, Ren had seen it with his own eyes.

When he carried Julio to escape using the feet of Nemesis who controlled karma, they flew off course not to “slightly ahead” but “even more ahead, further than half a year ahead”——

(A flood will swallow not only Tokyo, but everywhere on earth. The sun won't rise for the second time. Various gods and monsters appear.....)

Ren stared at the sun god before him and thought.

Could it be, "he" was also among those gods?

——Fuu.

Ren let out a deep breath.

Right now he should defeat Marquis Voban. But, even so he felt that it would be bad if he was begging for help from Apollo. There would be no way to escape if he got caught in an unexpected trap.

However, how would he fought the formidable enemy who wasn't affected by Ren and his fiancée's trump card.....?

「Ah」

‘I see.’ He suddenly noticed.

In the past Rokuhara Ren saw the sight of the earth's sun dying. And then—he had just heard a similar story. He could do it.

「Thank you. It's thanks to Apollo-san teaching me the hint.」

「What do you mean, young godslayer?」

「Perhaps, I'll be able to win against that senpai. I'll bring him down after this.」

「Hou!」

The sun god of Greek mythology stared at Rokuhara Ren with a great focus.

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When he noticed, Apollo already vanished from in front of him.

That mysterious thick mist had already dispersed too. In front of Ren who could see clearly, Troia princess Cassandra was getting all panicked in worry.

「Ple, please get a hold of yourself, Ren-sama!？」

「I'm fine..... I'm somehow staying sane.」

「Ren-sama!」

It seemed that for a while he was falling into unconsciousness while standing still.

Ren understood that from Cassandra's reaction. Even so, how should he interpret the interference of the sun god Apollo——?

Ren felt doubt remaining in his mind. But, the priority right now was the confrontation against his “colleague”.

He had to hurry back to Riona, but before that.

Ren kneeled down on one knee and crouched, then he joined his right hand's index finger and middle finger together. He stretched those fingers and touched the snow covered ground and chanted.

「The power that caused Ragnarok.....this time it's my turn to use it.」

It was different from the other day when he was swallowed by the world-destroying conflagration.

If it was now he was able to take it slow in preparation of the counterattack.

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4

Creak-! Creak-! Creak-!

The ash tree that was created from the magic shoes was making a conspicuously creaking sound.

The branches holding down the struggling giant wolf became unable to endure and finally they were about to break.

The grey beast that was trying to tear apart the ash tree's restriction—stopped moving and roared with laughter using Marquis Voban's voice.

「Hahahaha! I'll give you this too!」

Lightning fell from the sky that was completely covered by cloud.

It fell toward the ash tree that was capturing Marquis Voban who transformed into wolf.

Actually the tree had received the same attack several times until now. Each time, the sacred ash tree would repel the lightning attack. But this time it finally couldn't endure anymore.

The hard strike from the lightning caused the ash tree's trunk to start burning around its root.

「Yo, you are going to burn yourself too like that you know!?!」

Toba Riona flew in the sky as Yatagarasu while watching the godslaying wolf.

She called out to the captured beast in panic from the sky.

「Marquis-san! Don't you know about the folktale of Kachi-kachi Mountain!?!」

「I don't know of any place like that. What, there is no need to worry. Everything will be fine if I simply break this tree faster than the fire reaching my body!」

「Geez-. This is why I dislike someone with the brain of beat-em-up game who is behind the times!」

The raging demon king. The fed-up Riona. It was then.

(.....Riona!)

Rokuhara Ren's thought was transmitted to her heart. Riona instantly understood his intention.

「Very well. If it goes well then I'll cancel the penalty for temporarily leaving this place. Please do it properly okay, goshujin-sama!」

She haughtily responded and began the strategy—.

That feeling of omnipotence was revived in the mind and body of Riona=Yatagarasu once more.

「O Vidar's shoes, thanks for your hard work!」

「Oo!?!」

The giant ash tree suddenly vanished and the godslaying giant wolf recovered his freedom.

Small light ascended from in front of the surprised Marquis Voban toward Yatagarasu in the air. That was a pair of shoes that were emitting golden radiance.

The sacred bird of guidance recovered Vidar's shoes and summoned in exchange.

「Twelve divine generals, gather on me!」

「Those people again!」

The shikigami twelve divine generals manifested as flame spirits—.

They flew together with Yatagarasu and became twelve blazing cluster of flame beside her.

And then they received the holy spirit of fire and sun from the sun that should be shining above over the black cloud covering the sky, in order to change it to the light spear of scorching heat.

Riona chanted the words of power.

「The abrupt darkness of heaven—. The golden spirit of black kite come and the imperial bow stop it. That black kite is shining bright, like a lightning stream.....!」

Yatagarasu who spread open her wings and the twelve blazing flame fired out laser beam.

It was a single attack that bundled thirteen flashes into one. It descended straight to the ground and reached the demon wolf that boasted a size and fierceness that were equal to that Fenrir—.

However, the monster that slaughtered the sun also emitted light from his own giant body.

It was the divine protection of light that neutralized the Great Exorcism of Golden Kite from Yatagarasu and returned it into nothingness.

「There is no way a technique of that level will be able to kill me!」

「I know that!」

Voban stared in wonderment the instant Riona returned an agreement to his roar.

「What did you say!?!」

Something gushed forth from the ground right beside the godslaying wolf.

That was the skull of demon wolf Fenrir. The wolf who summoned the end that Marquis Voban dropped from the sky just some time ago.

The wolf skull opened its mouth that could swallow even Valhalla Palace——

And with a snap it savagely bit into Marquis Voban who transformed into a giant wolf!

「Tsk! An attack from that brat who control karma huh!」

Marquis Voban howled.

Fenrir's skull was faintly transparent. It was an appearance with meager sense of reality.

Furthermore, there was a goddess behind it. A winged goddess with fluttering ice blue hair, red garment, and black mas. The avatar of Nemesis that Rokuhara Ren controlled.

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「Nemesis pass down divine punishment to misdeed that jeopardize life.」

He held his right hand in front of his face and joined his index finger and middle finger together——

Ren was chanting the words of power of retribution.

「The cause of future phenomenon lie in the past. O fate, manifest the entanglement of fate.....!」

It was different when he was attacked by the authority of world-destroying conflagration the other day.

He took time concentrating, heightened his magic power enough, and manifested the skull of Fenrir. In addition he got a ride on the divine horse that Cassandra was riding and she took him until the site of Valhalla Palace.

And then, he asked Riona to use the Great Exorcism of Golden Kite—

Marquis Voban's wolf heightened his sun god attribute and implemented "swallowing light with light". In that moment Ren made Fenrir's skull attacked.

Ren spoke to Cassandra who was right beside him.

「Riona told me, that Fenrir will swallow the sun at the end of the world.」

「Yes. Certainly I too have seen that moment.」

As expected from the priestess who got the vision of future. Cassandra nodded to him.

「That's why if it's Fenrir, he should be able to win even against the marquis who heightened his power of sun. And then because he heightened his sun power, the marquis also won't be able to win against Fenrir.....」

The grey giant wolf was captured by the ash tree until just now.

Right now he was captured by Fenrir's skull—by that jaw that had lost its flesh and skin and was bigger than him. He was stuck between the upper and lower fangs.

「Honestly, just reproducing Fenrir's single attack might not work against the marquis. That thing has absurd power and destructive energy but it's not maneuverable. It also cannot be used in a smart way.」

The marquis didn't defend against the laser bombardment of the sun spirits with Fenrir's authority.

Even though that would be the most effective method when thinking about the affinity. In other words 『he was unable to do it』. Ren who was now in the side of using Fenrir understood that very well.

「Ren-sama, that!」

Cassandra yelled. She was staring at the giant wolf with a fearful and awed gaze.

The wolf where Voban's soul was dwelling stopped rampaging right now. His eyes that were filled with fighting spirit—were fixed at Rokuhara Ren who was slightly above the ground.

「Now you have done it brat—my young colleague!」

「I'm sorry but, I'm really strong you see..... I'll take the win like this.」

「Big talk. Then I too will continue my vain struggle!」

The ancient demon king didn't falter or shrunk back even when he was in a pinch.

He arrogantly howled ferociously from the wolf's mouth even while being held in the mouth of Fenrir's skull.

「Lightning fall, shatter the wolf of Ragnarok!」

「Riona!」

「Leave it to me-. O Vidar's shoes, grant me strength!」

A huge lightning burst from the sky and attacked Fenrir's skull.

Ren yelled. The golden Yatagarasu that was in the sky of whirling dark cloud—began to swoop down.

The three legged sacred bird. Her powerful wings and also her feathers were shining gold, but only her three legs and talons were jet black.

However right now, those three legs were enveloped by something like “cover that was created from iron”——.

The power of the shoes that Odin gave dwelled in Yatagarasu's legs.

「The evil wolf is trampled down by Vidar's shoes! The remarkably miraculous magic shoes that also has the divine effect of wolf sealing, if it's right now when you're together with Fenrir—then it can be used exactly like in the prophecy, marquis-sama!」

The legs of Yatagarasu that rushed from the sky performed.....dropkick!

The skull of the wolf of end was heavily sent flying by the three legs that were wearing magic shoes. The skull was crumbling into pieces. And then the godslaying giant wolf was starting to rapidly shrink—

The two demon wolves vanished like that.

The shoes of Vidar forcefully reproduced the plot of Ragnarok despite the adversity!

「It suppress the authority of wolf! You have a troublesome tool there!」

There was only a loathing voice resounding. The marquis's figure wasn't anywhere. He was vanishing.

「He should appear there any time now, Ren-sama!」

「Thank you Cassandra!」

At the place that Cassandra pointed at more than 100 meter ahead, a young man in black coat flew down from the sky. He escaped the predicament by returning to his human body.

The marquis was in the verge of rushing away with the speed of four legged beast.

His temporary retreat might come true without the prophecy. And then they might receive the marquis's revenge after he rallied himself and allowed the table to be turned. But if it was now then it was still possible.....to finish him off!

Ren chose his trump card from his “stock” that still hadn't been used.

At that time the might was too great and he couldn't manifest it well but, if he did this——

「I wish for the judgment of justice!」

「Kuh——! The authority of world-destroying conflagration!?!」

He joined his two fingers and a vortex of flame was created at the direction where he thrust his fingers at.

The conflagration that Marquis Voban once unleashed. Ren manifested only a miniscule portion of it here using Nemesis's authority.

Against his own conflagration, the marquis heightened his magic power for the first time to resist it.

He pushed aside the magic attack using godslayer's constitution and strength of will. It was the same like what Ren always did. But, surprisingly the marquis——stopped it immediately.

「Eh?」

「What's the meaning of this!?!」

Ren was bewildered, while Cassandra was astonished.

The body of Marquis Voban was burning like paper in front of the two. He became ash without even leaving behind bone and crumbled. Could it be he gave up fighting and escaping?

But, the lump of ash that was resulted from the godslayer's corpse was——

Suddenly got carried by the strongly blowing wind to far beyond.

(Kukukuku. You're quite formidable. I'll give you my praise for that, brat. In deference to that, I will withdraw for now this time. When we reunite one day somewhere.....I will return this debt without fail.)

「Eeehh!?!」

The marquis's voice came from the ash that was carried away by the blowing wind.

Ren realized. The marquis intentionally showed himself getting burned in order to take Ren by surprise. The lump of ash was already vanishing from the view of the astonished Ren and Cassandra.

「Come to think of it, he was a person who revived even after becoming just soul.....」

「So there is that kind of person among human who isn't even god or hero..... As expected from Ren-sama's colleague.」

Cassandra reflexively spoke out a praise beside the muttering Ren.

In any case, if he was turned into ash, he wouldn't be able to counterattack right away—.

Rokuhara Ren and his comrades triumphed against Ragnarok's wolf. There shouldn't be any change to that fact.

Epilogue

Ragnarok's plot changed.

The lightning god Thor obtained the assistance of his little brother Vidar. Although he was unable to defeat the world snake Jormundgand, the snake was pushed back into the sea once more.

Spurred by the momentum, the siblings went to the rainbow bridge Bifrost.

They encouraged the valkyries and einherjars, and sunk the ship of death Nalgfar with lightning god's hammer Mjolnir. The ship of evil god Loki and the flame giant Muspel clan took flight to beyond the sea.

And then, the handsome god Freyr who was wielding a deer's horn and the chief god Odin.

The young and old two gods brought down the flame giant Surtr at the end of a hard battle.

However, the flame sword the giant used vanished before they noticed. Even using Odin's one eye, its whereabouts was unknown—.

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「Perhaps」

Odin stared at the west sky that was dyed by evening glow and said.

He was beside the crater that was gouged at the site of Valhalla Palace. He looked like a wizard as usual with his grey robe and wide brimmed hat.

「Ragnarok might occur again one day. A new ship of death will be constructed and at the dawn when the one who inherit the sword of flame appear.....」

「The Ragnarok this time is like the short version isn't it.」

Riona nodded and said.

「It occur when winter continue for three years and the heart of the people decayed completely. That is the original Ragnarok. With the giants and monsters not destroyed, the bud of the reoccurrence certainly exist.」

「But, it's fine. For now we have stave it off today anyway.」

Unlike the wise people, Ren was smiling carefreely.

「There is the saying that tomorrow will take care of itself. You can just worry when it looks like the next end of the world is going to happen.」

「It's exactly as you say, godslayer!」

The one who heartily agreed was the hot blooded man, lightning god Thor.

「Tonight we're treating ourselves to a party as the celebration of victory! What, even with Valhalla Palace gone, we can just lit fire at the empty lot there and grill meat!」

「That's nice idea.」

Two fellow simpleminded people. Ren gave a thumb up at the lightning god's idea. But,

「No. It's better if you all doesn't stay for long in this land.」

Odin shook his head prudently.

「The influence given by godslayer's existence to this sanctuary won't be small by all means you know?」

「That's so, isn't it. We don't know when the space distortion connecting earth and this sanctuary will return to normal. Beside Rokuhara-san」

Riona sent him a meaningful gaze.

The girl who became his matchless partner right now used “that word”.

「We don't really have—that much time you know? With how close the day of destruction is, we cannot relax too much right?」

「Hahaha, roger.」

Ren didn't object and replied lightly.

It seemed the memory of doom's day that Rokuhara Ren and Julio Blandelli encountered had been transmitted fully to Riona.....

Thus, Ren and others boarded the goat chariot that their ally Thor drove.

They descended from the heavens Asgard to the lower world and arrived at the “departure point”.

It was the space distortion that they used to teleport from Spain's Murcia Province to here around a week ago at Sanctuary Midgard's time.

Ren and others leaped into the brilliant light that was like nebula.

The good fellow Thor sent his words to them from behind.

「Farewell my travelling comrades. Our temporary comrade in arms, a man who should be our irreconcilable enemy and his companions. I hope that even if we are reunited once more one day, it will still be as friend!」

It was a parting that was the complete opposite with the godslaying marquis.

.

And then, there was the starry sky of earth above Rokuhara Ren.

The sight of the constellation here was really different from the sanctuary of Norse mythology. It was the night sky of South Europe's Spain that they saw at a rocky place of Murcia Province that was facing Mediterranean Sea.

The sea breeze was chilly. However, it was completely warm compared to Ragnarok's snowy wind.

「For now Rokuhara-san」

The first thing Riona said was,

「In a few days I'll return to Japan, announce our engagement and—take care the procedure for loan deal. Rokuhara-san too, please come together with me.」

「I don't mind but, by loan deal you mean?」

「Rather than going to Rokuhara-san's place from Japan each time there is something, staying together until everything is settled is more reasonable. I think staying as a member of Japan's Institute of Divinities while temporarily transferring or getting loaned to Campiones Association will be better.」

「Yosh. Let's go with that.」

Ren grinned at his fiancée's suggestion.

「Then, perhaps I'll call Stella now and ask her to take out the phone. I have to make a call to Julio.」

「Then Ren-sama. What should I do with myself?」

「Let's see, Cassandra is——」

Ren tilted his head when he was about to answer.

He stared at the beautiful princess from Troia who wasn't him or his fiancée.

That was right. It became natural to be together with her that he didn't think of it as specially problematic even when she was with them going back to earth and going with the flow.....

「I completely forget to send back Princess Cassandra to Troia.....」

Riona also muttered with a face that said 『Darn it!』 .

Come to think of it Cassandra was awfully silent since the battle was settled.

Could it be—she was purposefully shutting her mouth so that Ren and others wouldn't put the princess's existence in their mind.

Cassandra herself was gracefully smiling with a vaguely mischievous look.

.

「The time of doom's prophecy is at eleven o'clock huh.....」

Julio Blandelli muttered.

The western mansion at the outskirt of Valencia. He was staring at the Doomsday Clock that was hidden in the chapel here.

「The hands rotated until 23:30 after the two godslayers entered Sanctuary Midgard. It somehow turned back now.....」

The destruction of this world would begin when the clock showed the time of 00:00.

And then, that time was steadily getting closer bit by bit. Julio keenly felt it and felt a bit melancholic. But.

「The possibility that Ren will come back safely exist seeing that the time until destruction has moved back by thirty minutes.」

He took out a smartphone from his jacket's pocket.

He called the number of the phone that he entrusted to Rokuhara Ren's partner, Stella.

He didn't have the easygoing personality that could convince himself to leave the matter of tomorrow for tomorrow. But, he also wouldn't be able to spend his daily life if he didn't shelve away this overly grave problem to a certain degree.

.

At the time Julio started to call.

The existence who he called as the White Queen—was at the center of Valencia.

The cathedral. The Miguelete tower was the highest structure within it. It seemed that this name was derived from Archangel Michael in Valencia language.

The White Queen who was armed like usual climbed to the tower's roof.

A long sword hanged on her waist. She was clad in a masked helmet, chainmail, and a mantel as the finishing touch.

「Now then. What kind of disturbance will occur next with the entrance of the new godslayer.....」

The queen took off her mask and looked up to the night sky.

Her honey colored short hair was also gallant. The female knight's beautiful face became exposed.

Afterword

Everyone, it's been a long time.

This is Takedzuki Jou.

The second volume of Shiniki no Campiones are safely published three months after the first volume.

This too is thanks to the patronage of everyone and BUNBUN-san who properly finished the illustration despite me making him waiting everytime and his busy schedule.

I express my thanks here.

.

When it came to the theme of second volume, it's Norse mythology.

It's a colossus with number one influence in regard to tickling the chuuni heart even among the numerous myths.

This time I too faced the Norse mythology after so long,

「The character and setting's aren't halfbaked huh!」

I reconfirmed that once more.

Whether it's Odin or Thor, I don't even need to particularly "exaggerate" their character. Just writing them exactly like in their myth and they are already complete as character.

On top of that Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods has delicious enemy characters coming out in heaps.

Hymr, Fenrir, Jormundgand.

The fire giant Surtr, Levateinn that in Japan became more famous as AS's name instead (This is a magic sword of Norse mythology), etc.

I had it really easy at the aspect of building character and setting (lol).

This time I occasionally wrote the world commentary within the story.

Thought like 『I saw something like this in Game of Thrones!』 or 『This is done at Lord of the Ring!』 came a lot.

Also, middle country=Middle Earth=Midgard in the tale of ring perhaps doesn't even need to be said anymore.

I write the glossary about Norse Mythology at Takedzuki Jou's Twitter this time too.

Those who are interested please peruse it.

.

Now then.

Presently the next volume is planned to be a return to Japan once more.

The stage most likely will be Kansai region. It seems that it will be a story completely about our main character and his fiancée.

I have the feeling that it will become a story in the direction of Nara and Asuka rather than Kyoto.

Actually I've been thinking to try using the region there as theme since some time ago.

.....Well, perhaps I'll suddenly have a change of heart and settle down with Wakayama or even outside Japan altogether though.....

I'll be glad if we can meet again at the third volume.

Side Story: Sanctuary Chef 2 – Norse Mythology Section

.

Snow was falling heavily on the wasteland.

The sun was sinking into the horizon.

「The snow is really piling up.」

Rokuhara Ren talked softly. Beside him Toba Riona also nodded.

「Let's make the fire burn hot and warm the house. At this rate we will seriously freeze to death.」

「Ren-sama, Riona-sama. A lot of firewood are piled up outside the hut!」

The silver haired beautiful girl Cassandra entered from the entrance with quick footsteps.

She originated from the city of Troia from Greek mythology. A princess that was born from a royal family with ancient and honorable pedigree. But, the location of Ren and others weren't at Troia or even at Greek mythology.

It was the world of Norse mythology, Sanctuary Midgard—.

Furthermore it was outside Midgard country that was the living place of the humans. They were at a region where there was only wasteland everywhere that was crowded by the ferocious giants and monsters.

—It suddenly snowed heavily when they were traveling the wasteland toward human settlement.

They accidentally found an empty house, so they decided to stay the night here.

「If there are firewood here, does that means this house was lived in by someone until recently?」

Ren wondered where the residence had gone. However Riona easily replied.

「This place is the country of giant Jotunheim. A family of giants must have lived here. Perhaps they went to attack human settlement at Midgard? The defensive wall that act as country border is also close from here.」

「My. So that's how it is!」

Cassandra spoke discerningly.

「Perhaps they have been defeated by Thor-sama and Riona-sama at the battle the other da.....」

「That's how it is. Let's use the stockpiled items here without reservation. The firewood and also the food. I don't want to freeze to death, but I don't want to die from hunger even more!」

This empty house was similar like a tenement house in Japan's term.

It was a wooden house with long and narrow shape. The number of room was few, and the central hall was in a state of 『too spacious living room=a place for family sitting in happy circle + a place of activity』 .

And then, there was a “sunken fireplace” in the middle of this room.

「I once saw it in the past in a traditional inn that was made from a remodeled old Japanese-style house.」

What Ren recalled was of course his experience at the modern Japan.

A facility that was really similar at there——existed in the mythological world of Norse fantasy.

There was no wooden floor only at that spot, but a bare dirt floor. It was surrounded by rectangle stones as separation from the wooden floor. The spot must be using fire frequently because it was covered with soot.

「The granny who managed the inn would cook something like boar meat hot pot at the sunken hearth.」

「This thing has exactly the same purpose. With this heating, lighting and even cooking can be done here. This is the so called ancestor of stove, the hearth.」

「Even cooking can be done using this!?!」 (Cassandra)

「I see. The pot will be hanged here.」

A soot covered hearth. A rope was hanged down from the ceiling, furthermore there was a hook attached to it. Surely it was used to hang a pot with handle attached or a kettle.

Looking closer, there was a small hole opened at the ceiling. It was to let out the smoke that came out from the hearth.

Thus——

They burned firewood on the facility that was really similar with sunken hearth without holding back and warmed themselves.

In addition, they ran to a hut outside that seemed to be an external storehouse under the falling snow and began rummaging for food. Although, there wasn't any abundant harvest from there.

Riona spoke with a frown.

「A little bit of preserved meat and various vegetables and vegetable scraps that doesn't look really fresh. And then there are salted fish that look like salmon or cod.....」

「Well, let's try making stew or hot pot food with them.」

Among the members here, Rokuhara Ren was the one with the highest household skill.

Ren laughed with the intention to cobble up cooking with the available ingredients. On the other hand, Riona muttered with the air of a talented woman with extensive knowledge and wisdom.

「Unlike Midgard with its abundant field and ranch, the food situation of Jotunheim that only has wasteland everywhere isn't good as expected.」

「Oh? What could this be?」

Cassandra was tilting her head in a corner of the storehouse.

There were several large sacks there. And then, what the princess scooped up from one of the sacks was—a great amount of light brown powder.

Around two hours passed and it was time for dinner.

The menu was seafood and vegetable stew that was flavored with salt. They couldn't find any other seasoning except salt, so it naturally became a simple dish. But, in the attempt to obtain a good broth at the very least, the remaining bony parts of the salted salmon and cod—the head, bone, intestines, etc. were thoroughly boiled before the other ingredients were put in.

If the fish's body and meat, and the vegetables were entered after that, they could avoid from having the ingredients being overcooked.

A large iron pot with round bottom was hanged above the blazing fire at the hearth. The inside was simmering well. And then it was split into several wooden bowls and everyone started eating.

The excessive salt content from the salted fishes went out into the stew which became a nice amount of seasoning instead.

「Ren-sama. The food is really delicious and make the body feels warm and fluffy!」

「Stew is best as cold night as expected.」

「We are sitting beside the hearth, so it really feels nostalgic like in Japan.」

「Then, let's try making one more Japan-ish thing.」

Cassandra was smiling cheerfully. Riona also looked satisfied.

They laid out fur on the floor to sit on, and everyone was sitting around the thing that was similar to a sunken hearth. Certainly it was a situation that was like in countryside Japan.

Ren temporarily took away the ingredients from the pot and then put in something.

He added water to the powder that the Troia princess discovered some time ago, kneaded it well and rounded it—and made dumpling.

「It's alright now I think.」

He put the heated dumpling into the bowl, scattered herb on it and it was finished.

「What kind of food is this?」

「Suiton. If it's created well, it should be really delicious. I can challenge to make this thanks to Cassandra finding the “wheat flour”.」 (TN: Suiton=flour dumplings in soup)

Those sacks were filled with a lot of light brown powder inside.

There was no doubt that it was wheat heads grinded using stone mortar into powder. And then.

「It absorbed the taste of the soup and taste really delicious.」

Cassandra brought the suiton into her mouth and made a wide smile.

But, Ren who was also tasting the trial product tilted his head.

「It tasted quite good but.....shouldn't suiton feel more springy?」

「Rokuhara-san. That's only when it's created purely using wheat flour. The springiness of food made from flour came from the gluten inside the wheat.」

Riona was also eating the suiton while speaking.

「The flour we found just now had black things mixed in it right? The wheat bran also got mixed in it. Also perhaps, flour like from millet, barley, wild oat, or rye got mixed too. That possibility is high.....」

「Eee-」

「Or rather, perhaps the ratio of the wheat is fewer instead. Pure wheat flour should be whiter even if the wheat bran is removed.」

「Now that you mentioned it, that's certainly true.」

Ren recalled the light brown color of the flour and nodded. Riona spoke further.

「Wheat is the most troublesome crop from among the wheat variety I mentioned just now. It's hard to grow it in cold weather, and the soil will become barren quickly if the field keep getting planted with it. And the amount of harvest per square meter is also not that much..... At the ancient world, especially at the alps north of Europe, cultivating it together with millet variety and other types was the wisdom of the farmer.」

「Hee!」

「Well, unlike the present time, suiton at the past didn't only use wheat but also millet or buckwheat flour plentifully. So perhaps we can say that this taste is closer to the original instead. I think this is quite an achievement in its own way.」

「Hahahaha. I'm happy to hear that from your majesty the queen.」

「Also Rokuhara-san. Can you cook “this” too while you're at it?」

「A completely dried up.....mochi?」

「This is the item that Riona-sama searched everywhere in the storehouse just now isn't it? Could it be this thing can also be eaten!?!」

Something light brown that looked like a round mochi was stretched out flatly, and then it was dried until it was hard.

The surface was cracked and there was even a cut in cross shape. Riona displayed such strange item and she grinned boldly.

「When the princess found that flour, I thought that there would be the “seed” somewhere.」

The night passed and morning came.

The snow was falling down like usual. Ren and others stayed cooped up inside the house and started preparing breakfast.

「Ooo, it's just as Riona said, it's swelling!」

Ren spoke in excitement.

Last night. He put lukewarm water on that dry mochi, smeared it with the mixed wheat flour of unknown ratio, and the soaked it. And then this morning he added even more flour to it and kneaded them together.

He then left it alone for a while and——

The dough had swelled up to the bursting.

「It become like this by itself! This is like magic!」

Cassandra's eyes sparkled while she was staring hard at the “dough”.

On the other hand, Riona who was giving instruction for this work was smiling in satisfaction.

「It's not magic but fermentation. With the power of yeast, the organic compound starting from the sugar content was decomposed and changed into alcohol and the like. It's a chemistry phenomenon that greatly developed mankind's cuisine.」

「So it's the thing that Riona mentioned when we created crepe at Troia!」

Ren stared closely at the “bread dough”.

「Then, if we baked this the breakfast bread will——」

「Be completed. Well, there is also a choice to lightly grill it while it's still not fermented into crepe or gyoza's wrapping like before. But this time I found seed=yeast that will stimulate fermentation with great trouble, so I tried this.」

「By yeast, you mean that thing that looked like dry mochi right?」

「Yes. It was created by leaving it on a bread that has been made beforehand, then wait until it's on the verge of getting spoiled and then thoroughly dry it. If it become dried like that, then the fungus will stop its activity and the fermentation and also decaying will be stopped. In other words it become possible to preserve it for a long time.」

Riona puffed out her smallish breast and said that proudly.

「But, that dried mochi will still contain a lot of yeast cell and lactic-acid bacilli. If water is added to it to urge the fungus's activity and wheat flour is smeared on it, it will swell out as bread dough!」

「Then Riona-sama, if we put it into the cooking stove after that.....!」

When Cassandra said that,

Ren noticed. There was no cooking stove or oven in this house. The cooking tool using fire was only the hearth——“this spot” that was similar

with a sunken hearth.

「.....It become scorched black.」

「So it's impossible to grill it directly with fire just as expected.」

Riona frowned while Ren grumbled.

The rounded bread dough was stabbed into a harpoon that the giants seemed to use for fishing. They then tried putting it over the blazing fire at the hearth to grill it. Using the hearth that was unable to adjust the firepower, the dough that they created with much trouble could only get charred. It was a total failure.

Cassandra sighed.

「Baking bread is really difficult isn't it..... If I return home to Troia, I will give my praise to the people of the kitchen.」

「But, there will be good stove over there.」

Riona muttered in mortification.

「It shouldn't be that difficult to grill flat bread or Tandoori chicken that can be found easily at the south. But, baking bread with fire directly from a sunken hearth is—just too hard.....」

「Or rather, I also have the feeling that this isn't something to be directly grilled though.....」

Ren said while staring at the crackling fire.

The soot covered hearth. The only tool to cook with heat in this house. In that case, the residence of this house that was leaving behind yeast here surely finished their baking using only this place.....

「I see.」

An insight flashed in Ren's mind. Trusting to that, Ren took the rounded bread dough and—

Threw it into the ash of the hearth.

「Ren-sama, if you do such thing!?!」

「It will be covered with ash and cannot be eaten you know!?!」

「It's fine, it's fine. Just leave it to me.」

Ren carefreely guaranteed to the worried girls.

He did it while churning the ash with an iron pole that was lying around nearby.

Thus dozens of minutes later—.

That wonderful scent when a bread was baked rose up.

「Yosh, it's finished.」

Ren pushed aside the ash with the iron rod and took out the freshly baked bread. Yes. He buried the bread dough within the piled up ash—and left it alone for a while.

「Ren-sama! It's really fluffy with a bit of sourness in it! This is my first time eating this kind of bread! It's really delicious-!」

「I'm happy that you say so.」

Ren smiled at Cassandra who was giving the bread a rave review.

He also bit into the freshly baked bread. The bread dough that was “baked in a covered pan” by burying it in ash was quite delicious.

「At the traditional inn from a remodeled old-Japanese style house in Yamanashi I mentioned before, I remembered the granny there also baked

using a sunken hearth. At that time she wrapped the red bean paste with the dough and baked it like this.....」

「Bread dough and ash surprisingly doesn't stick to each other isn't it.....」

Riona busily nibbled at the bread while staring at the hearth.

The fresh baked bread that was buried into the ash was cleaned from the ash with a simple method of Ren tapping the bread's surface. The bread became clean just from that.

「The granny who showed me this told me that it's something like that. Well, I don't know if the residence of this house also does it like this though.」

「No, I think that this might be the correct answer.」

Riona declared surely.

「There isn't any adequate oven or anything to bake a round and swelling bread. If they were baking using the pot or fry pan, then they should arrive at the recipe of simply stretching the dough flatly without fermenting it. They wouldn't expressly keep yeast if that's the case.」

「I see.」

By the way, the accompaniment of the bread was butter that they discovered in that storehouse.

It was homemade butter that seemed to be made from fermenting livestock's milk. It was preserved inside a wooden box. Although it was a bit stinky, it was tasty enough in its own way.

「Fufufufu」

Cassandra smiled mischievously.

She took one of the round breads and split it into two.

「This is the first time I have a bread that have black color in the inside.」

The freshly baked bread was shaped like a Chinese steamed bun. The inside that became exposed was light brown and steamy.

Ren spoke seriously.

「Is this area's local characteristic is 『black bread』 ?」

「The mixed flour that isn't made from wheat, the ratio of the rye in it must be a lot. It's the type of grain that is suite to make bread after wheat, the main ingredient of black bread. But if we search for the house of rich person, there might be the white bread that we are familiar with.....」

「Only with rich person?」

「Yes. In medieval Europe, it's said that black bread was the food of the common mass, and the noble and rich people love white bread. Just like I said before, wheat is a crop that is hard to be cultivated. But, it's also the most ideal ingredient for bread, so it was also cultivated even with the difficulty.」

Riona took a wooden plate.

This time, the light brown flour—the wheat flour that was used to make bread was put on it.

「The harvested ears of wheat are grinded with stone mortar to turn it into flour but, when creating the ideal bread, that flour will be meticulously sieved. By doing that the wheat bran and the mixed in assorted grains will be removed. And, using the remaining white flour, a white bread that is soft and fluffy will be created.....」

Riona talked while making a gesture of sieving the flour.

Cassandra said 「My」 in admiration.

「It really looks like a lot of work just from listening to the story!」

「That's right. From the ancient time until the medieval times, grinding flour was done with human power, so it was even more troublesome then. Well, when waterwheel was invented at the medieval Europe, the burden for that became greatly lightened though. But that's still a long way off for that to happen in this world of Norse mythology.」

Water wheel—.

It was the appearance of a new keyword after the 『fermentation』 that he heard in Troia, perhaps.

While it was a mythological world that was full with miracle, the wisdom of mankind civilization regarding food seemed to be an obstacle and also an instructor for Ren and co like usual.

.

.....To be continued?

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